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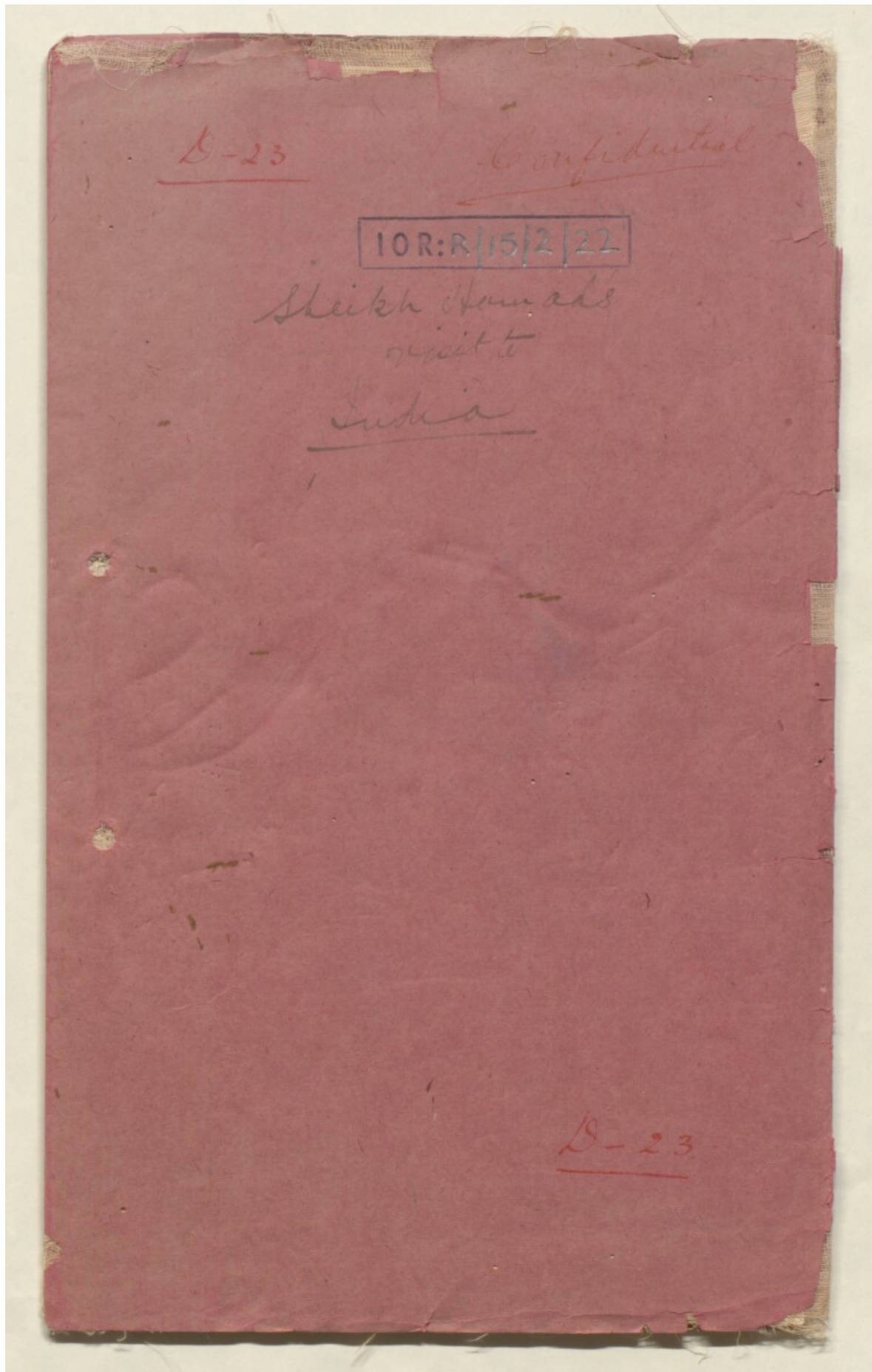
Reference	IOR/R/15/2/22
Title	'Sheikh Hamad's Visit to India'
Date(s)	14 Dec 1920-11 Jan 1921 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English and Arabic in Latin and Arabic script
Extent and Format	1 file (29 folios)
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Copyright for document	Public Domain

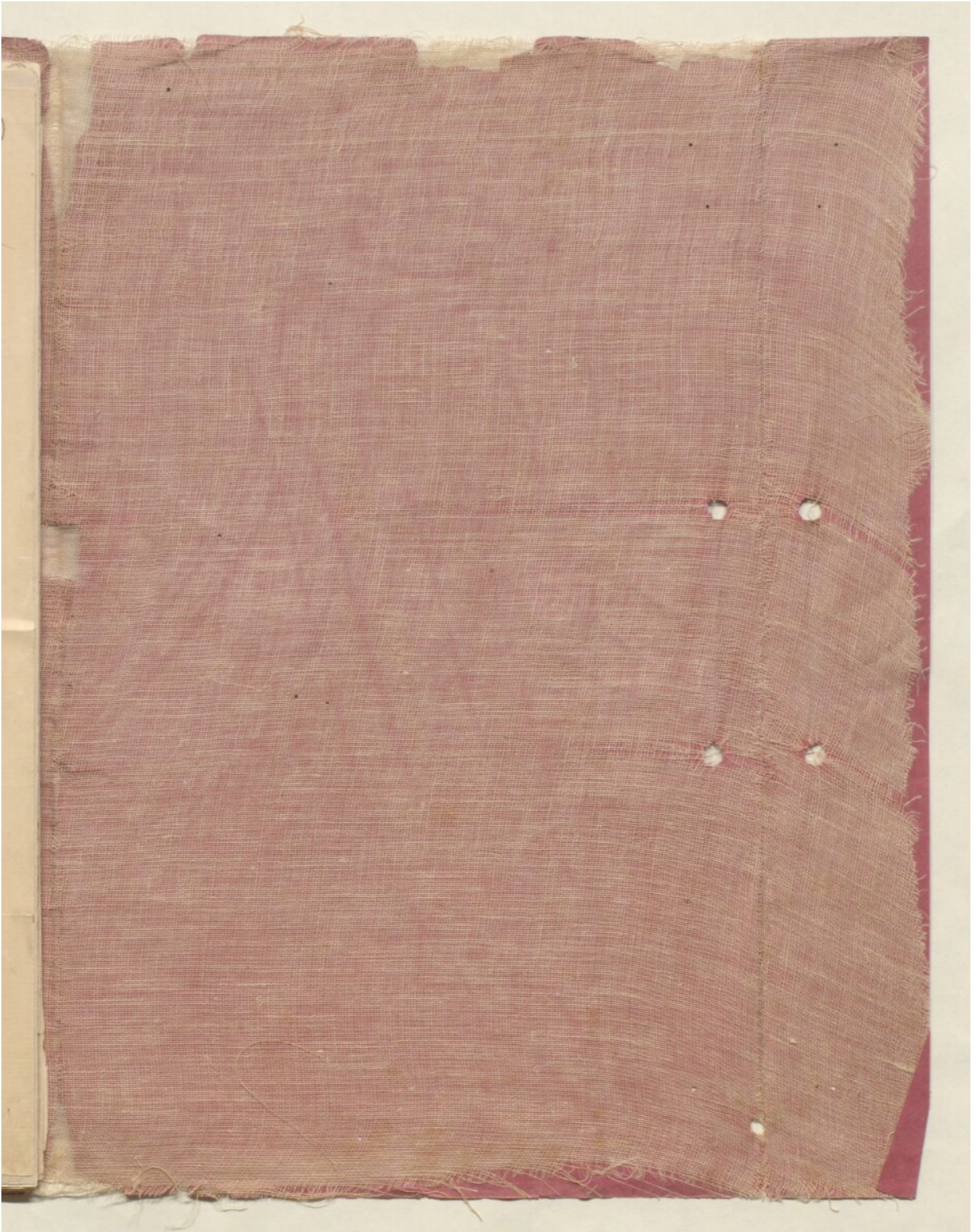
About this record

The file relates to a proposed visit by Sheikh Hamad bin Isa [Sheikh Ḥamad bin 'Īsā Āl Khalīfah], eldest son of the Ruler of Bahrein [Bahrain], Sheikh Isa [Sheikh 'Īsā bin 'Alī Āl Khalīfah] to India 'for recreation, and also for seeing civilization and material progress'.

The papers consist of letters and telegrams from Sheikh Isa (in Arabic with English translations); Khan Sahib, Indian Assistant, in charge of the Political Agency, Bahrein (including a letter in Arabic to Sheikh Isa, with translation in English); and the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

The file includes papers relating to a request by Sheikh Hamad for the loan of the RIMS (Royal Indian Marine Ship) *Lawrence*, December 1920; papers concerning the proposed itinerary for the visit, December 1920; papers relating to a request from Sheikh Hamad that the Indian Assistant, Khan Sahib, accompany him in India, December 1920; and telegram notifying the Political Resident of the departure of Sheikh Hamad and his party, January 1921.







2

الحمد
في البحرين
البحرين
معاون

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

من عيسى بن علي الخليفة المحض جانا بالرحل الكريم والرحمة الرحيم الجان صاحب السيد صديق حسن

أدام الله تعالى بقاءه ثم من يد السلام وتقدم خيل الخيرة والاحترام ابا بعد اعف جانا بكم بأن
ولنا الشيخ حمد قد علم على السباحة في الهند بقصد التنزه ورؤية القدر والارتقاء
العربي المنتج قسمة المذكرات وهو لا تفرح معكم قد استحسن هذا العزم واستصوب
وقد اذنت له بذلك فاجاب من حضرتكم لطفنا ترفعون هذا الخبر الى حضرت صدقنا
العزيز صاحب النخامة السريسي كأكس نائب جلالة الملك في العراق وكذا حضرت صدقنا
الاعز سعادة الكرنل روبر رئيس الخليج في بصرى لكي يعاونه لطفنا منهم التسديدات اللازمة
في هذه الخصوص ليعان ولنا المشار اليه من كتب القوائد في سياحة بمساعدة رجال
الحكومة المعظمة وارثاناً على الصدقة المحكمة بيننا وبين الحكومة المعظمة بأن يتقابل
ولنا المذكور من احكام الذي سيذهبهم هناك في بلدانهم بالمقابلة المناسبة لمقامه
فاجاب من لطفكم مكرراً رفع كل ذلك الى حضرت المشار اليها يا سرى وقت اذ قد
متوقفاً على سرعة وصول الجواب ثم اني ارسل لحضرتكم بطيعة صورة تلفاز ارجوان
تكتبوا بمضمونه تلفازين احدهم باسم صاحب النخامة السريسي كأكس نائب جلالة الملك
في العراق والاخر باسم سعادة الكرنل روبر رئيس الخليج وان ترسلوهم بأسر وقت
هذه المارم ولزيمتني حرمي ربيع الثاني عام ١٤٢٩

Urgent.

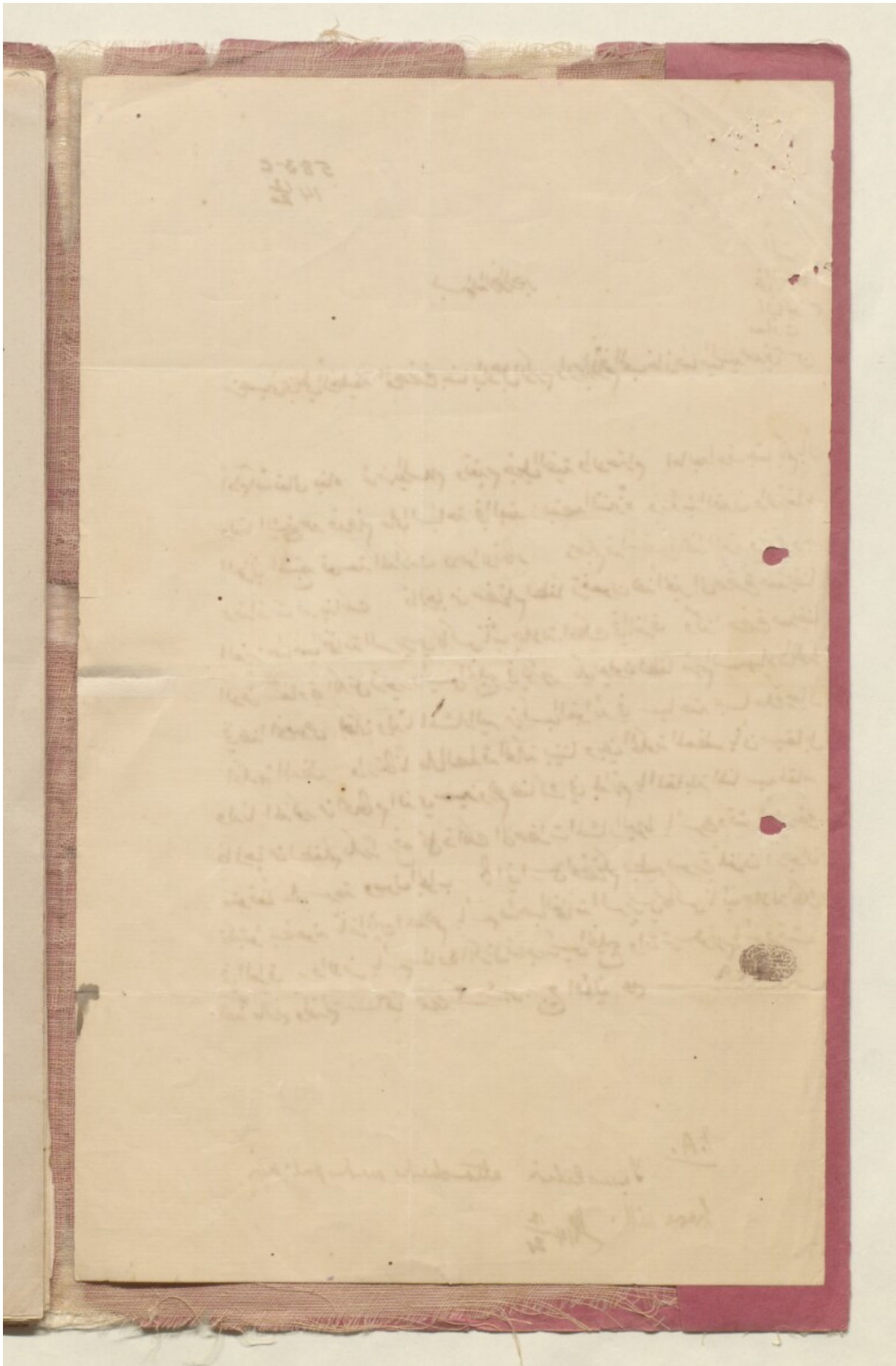
Int. P.L. translate & put up

14/12/20

S.A.

Translation attached and put up

have till 14/12/20





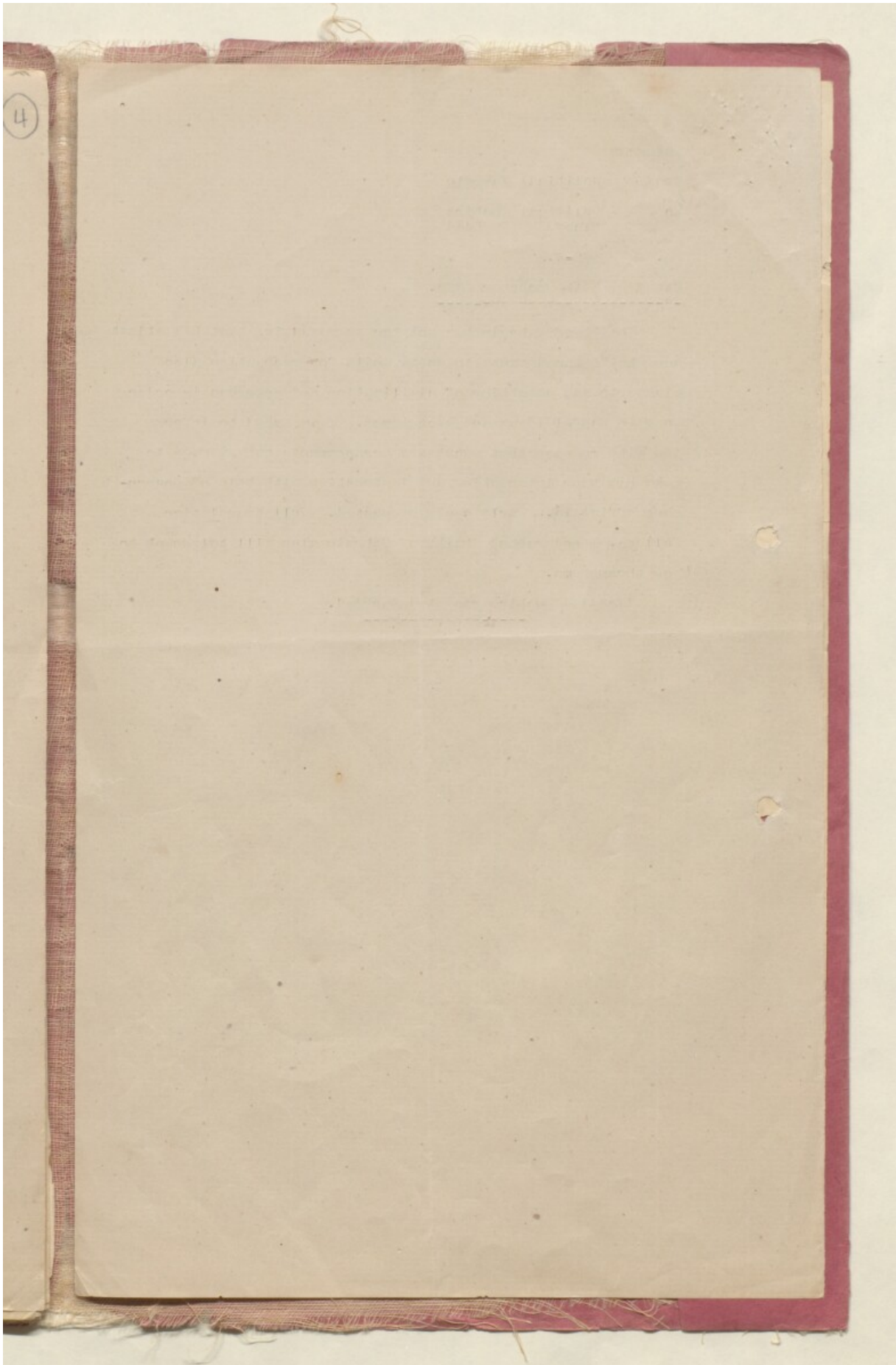
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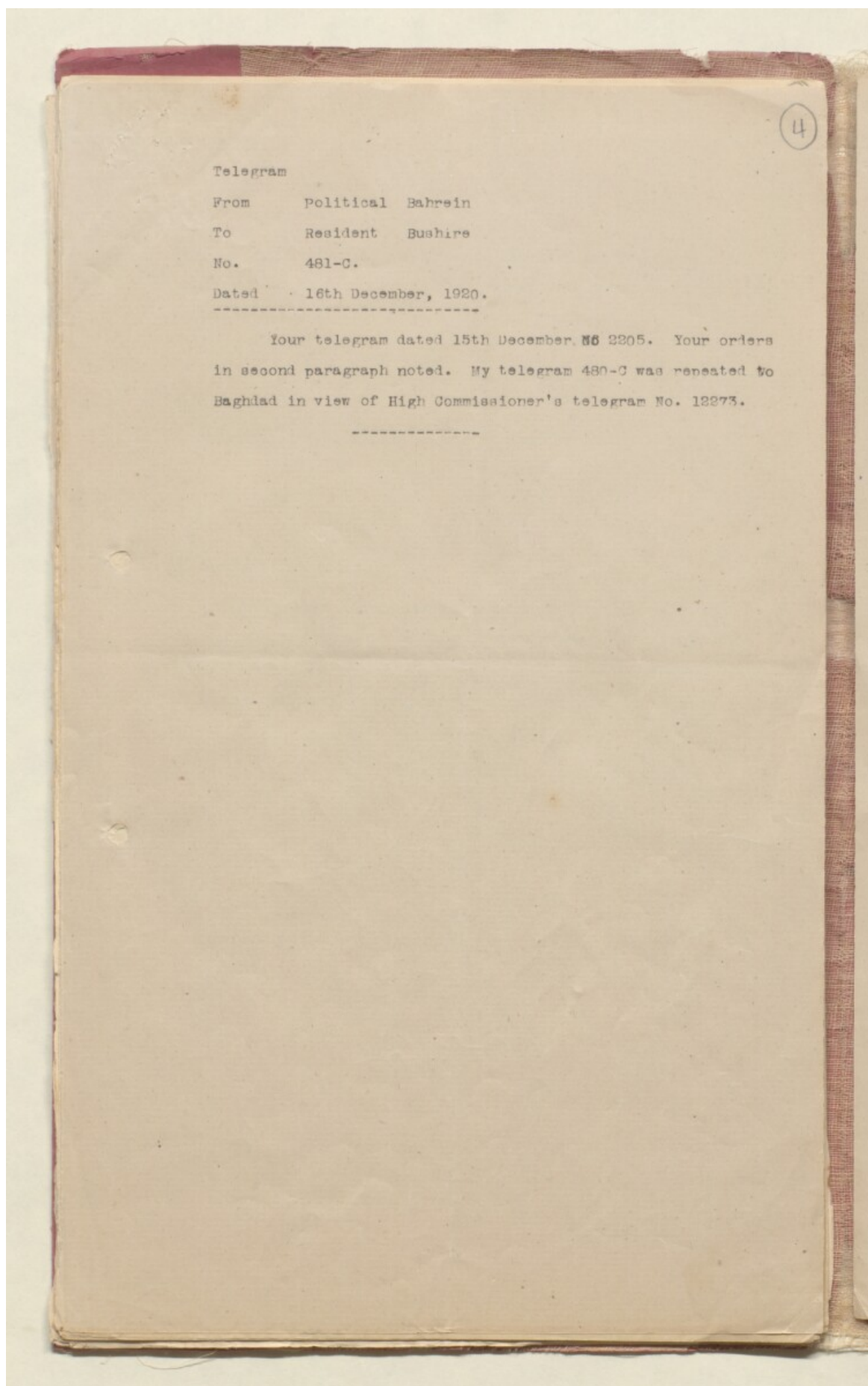
Telegram

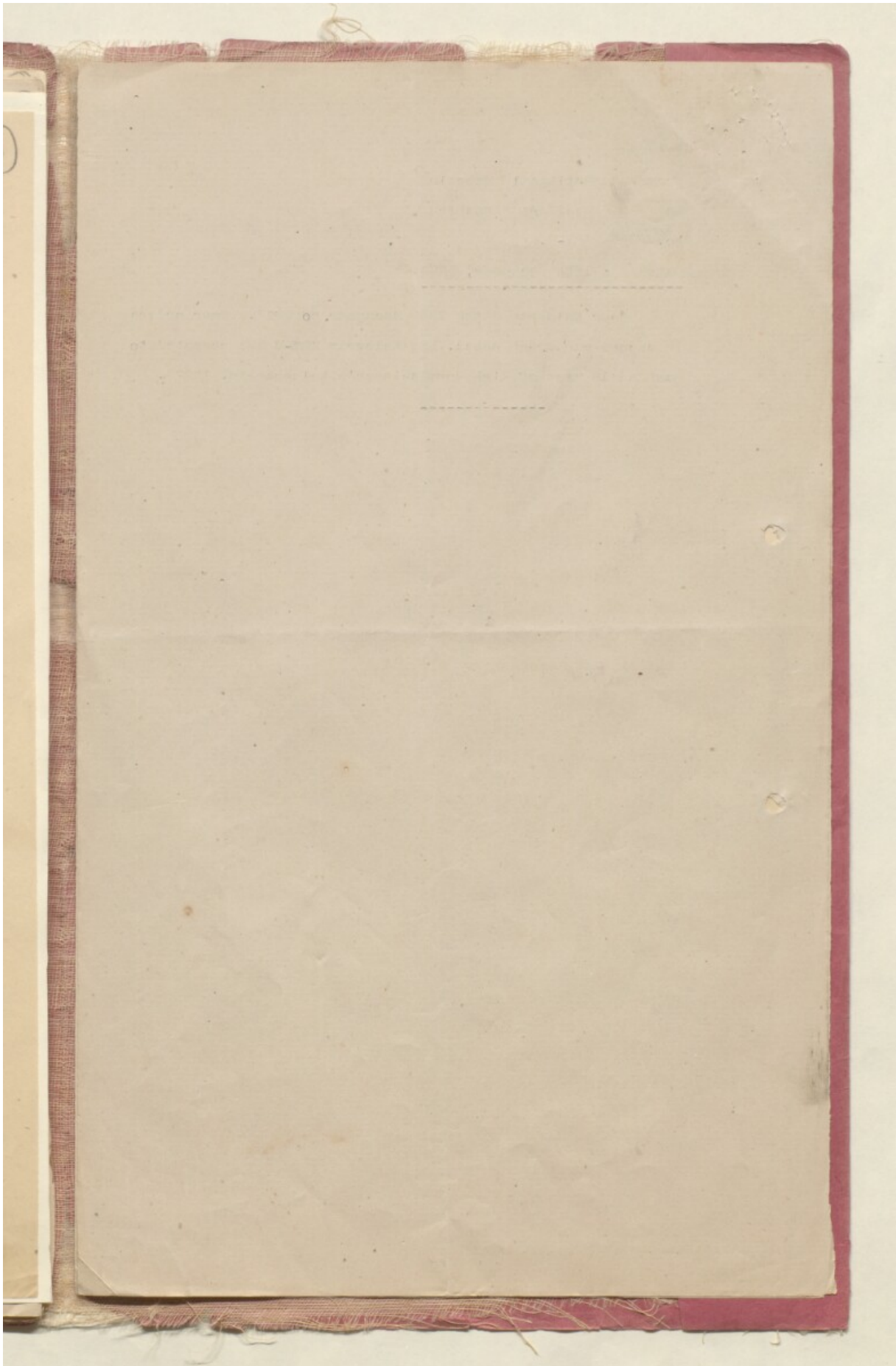
From Political Bahrein
To Political Bushire
Hicom Baghdad
No. 480-C.
Dated 14th December 1920.

Sheikh of Bahrein has written to me saying that his eldest son Sheikh Hamad wants to go to India for recreation also wishes to see something of civilization and progress in order to gain useful ideas and experience. I am asked to inform you with request that necessary arrangements may be made to make his tour interesting and instructive with help of Government officials. Early reply requested. Full translation follows. I understand Shaikh of Bahrein also will telegraph to you through me.

Addressed Bushire repeated Baghdad.









(5)

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 485 -C.

Political Agency, Bahrain.

Dated 19th December, 1920.

TO

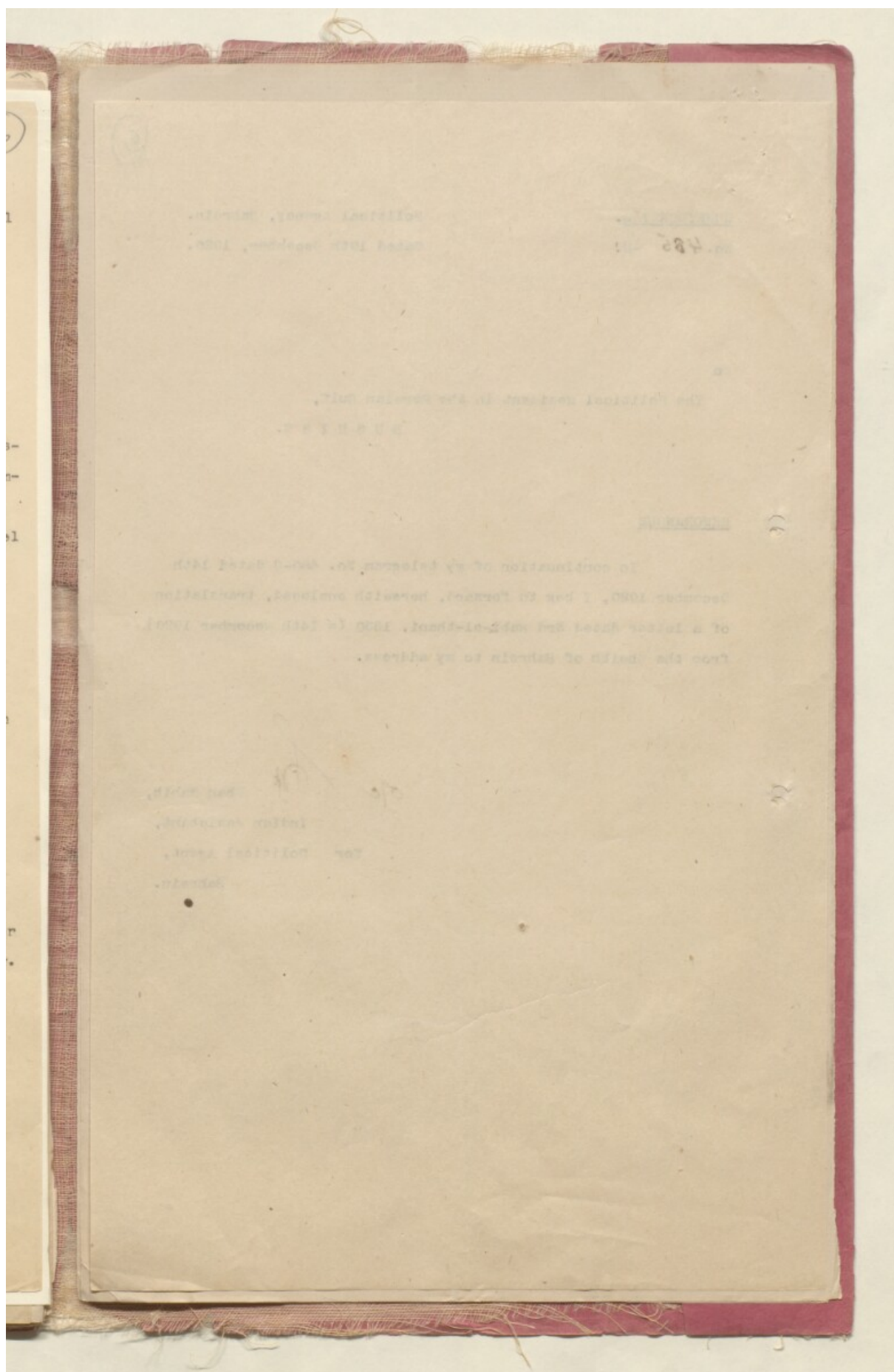
The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

B U S H I R E.

MEMORANDUM

In continuation of my telegram No. 480-C dated 14th December 1920, I beg to forward, herewith enclosed, translation of a letter dated 3rd Rabi-el-thani, 1330 (= 14th December 1920) from the Sheikh of Bahrain to my address.

o/c *[Signature]* Khan Sahib,
Indian Assistant,
for Political Agent,
Bahrain.





(6)

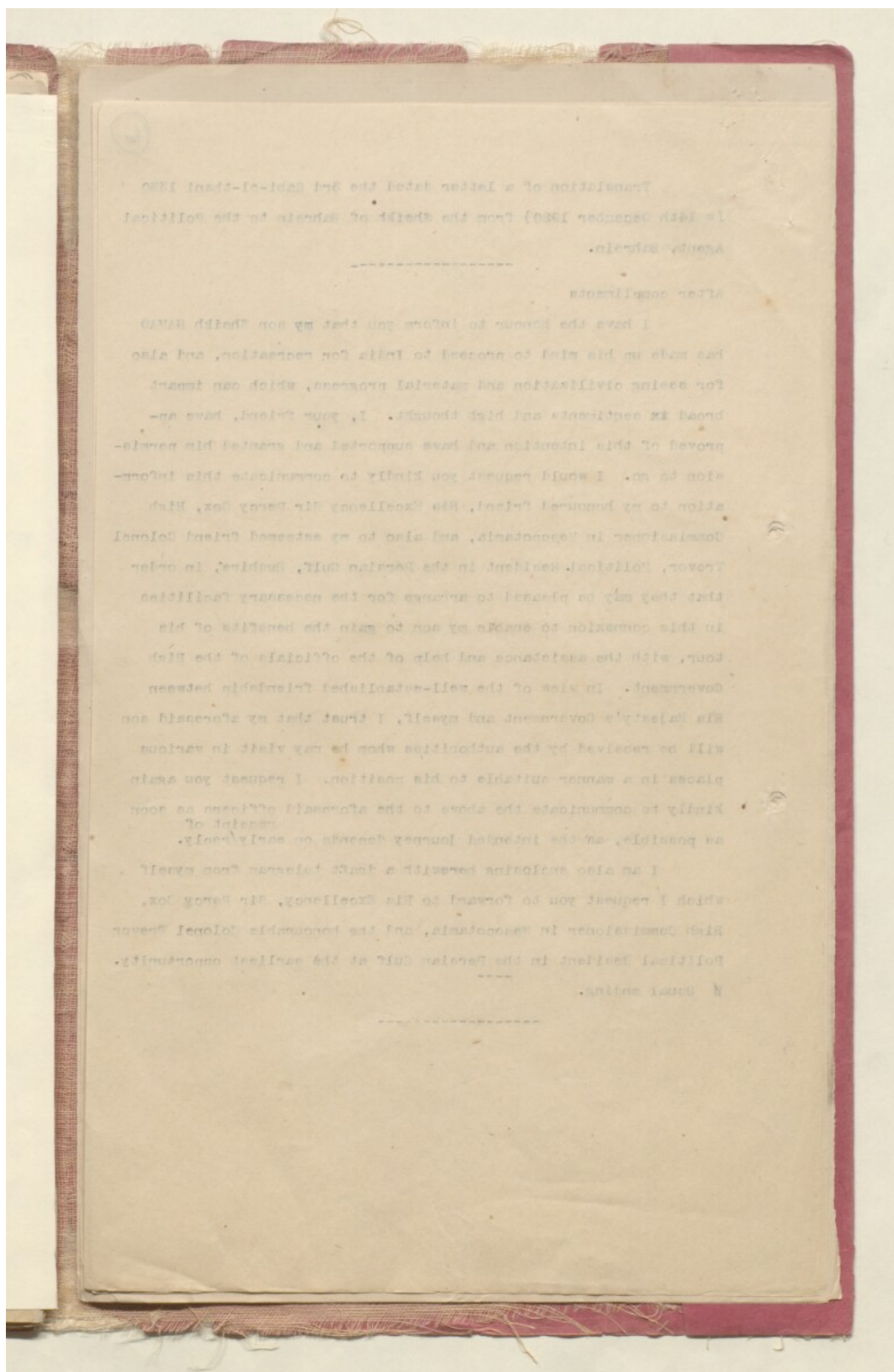
Translation of a letter dated the 3rd Rabi-el-thani 1330
(= 14th December 1920) from the Sheikh of Bahrein to the Political
Agent, Bahrein.

After compliments

I have the honour to inform you that my son Sheikh HAMAD
has made up his mind to proceed to India for recreation, and also
for seeing civilization and material progress, which can impart
broad ~~ix~~ sentiments and high thought. I, your friend, have ap-
proved of this intention and have supported and granted him permis-
sion to go. I would request you kindly to communicate this inform-
ation to my honoured friend, His Excellency Sir Percy Cox, High
Commissioner in Mesopotamia, and also to my esteemed friend Colonel
Trevor, Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire, in order
that they may be pleased to arrange for the necessary facilities
in this connexion to enable my son to gain the benefits of his
tour, with the assistance and help of the officials of the High
Government. In view of the well-established friendship between
His Majesty's Government and myself, I trust that my aforesaid son
will be received by the authorities whom he may visit in various
places in a manner suitable to his position. I request you again
kindly to communicate the above to the aforesaid officers as soon
as possible, as the intended journey depends on early receipt of
reply.

I am also enclosing herewith a draft telegram from myself
which I request you to forward to His Excellency, Sir Percy Cox,
High Commissioner in Mesopotamia, and the honourable Colonel Trevor
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf at the earliest opportunity.

✓ Usual ending.





(1)

(صورة تلغاف)

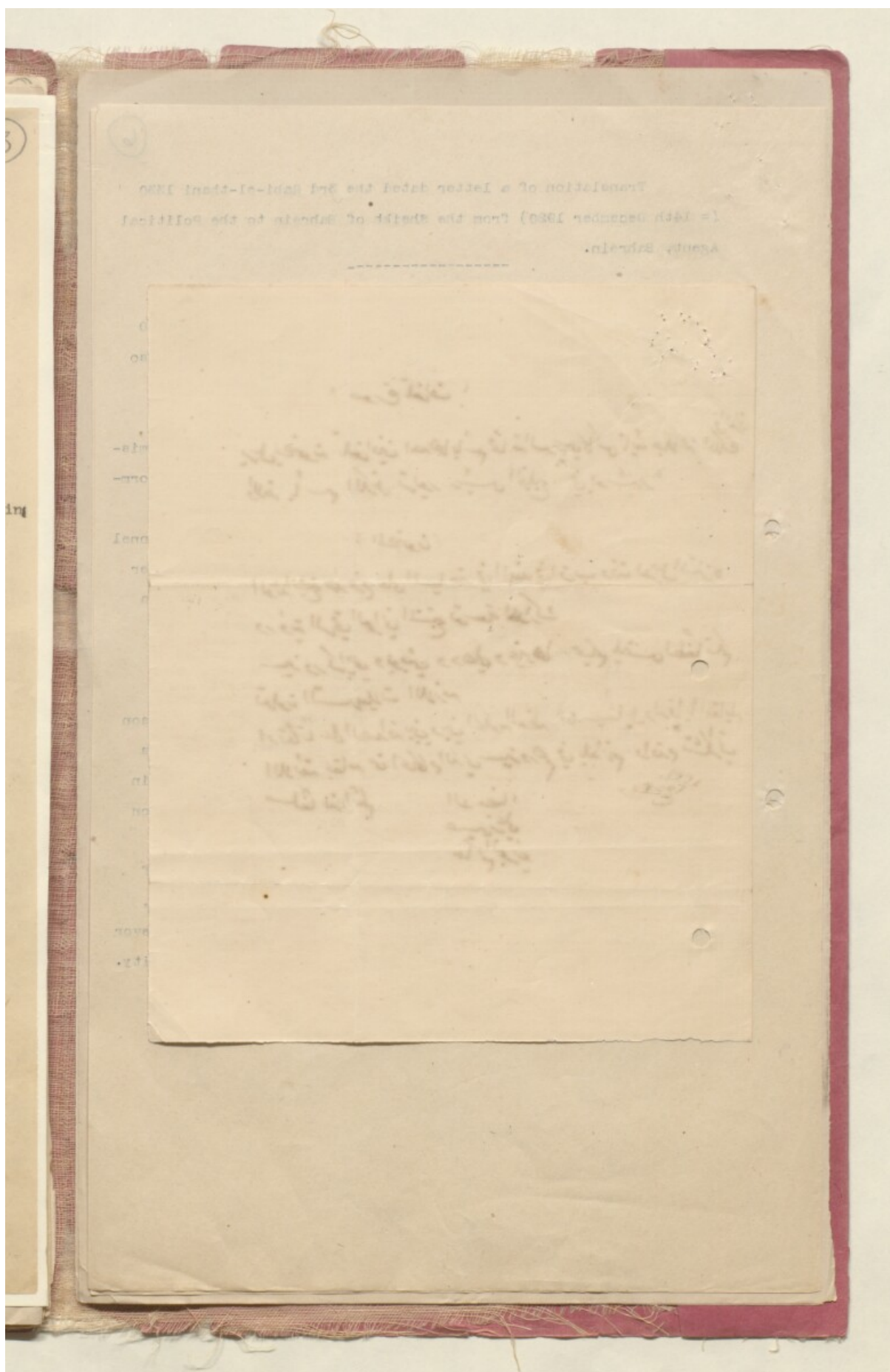
يرسل بمضمونه تلغافيني احدها باسم فحمة الدريسي كاس نايه جلالة الملك
والاخر باسم الكزن ترابور رئيس الخليج في بدشهر

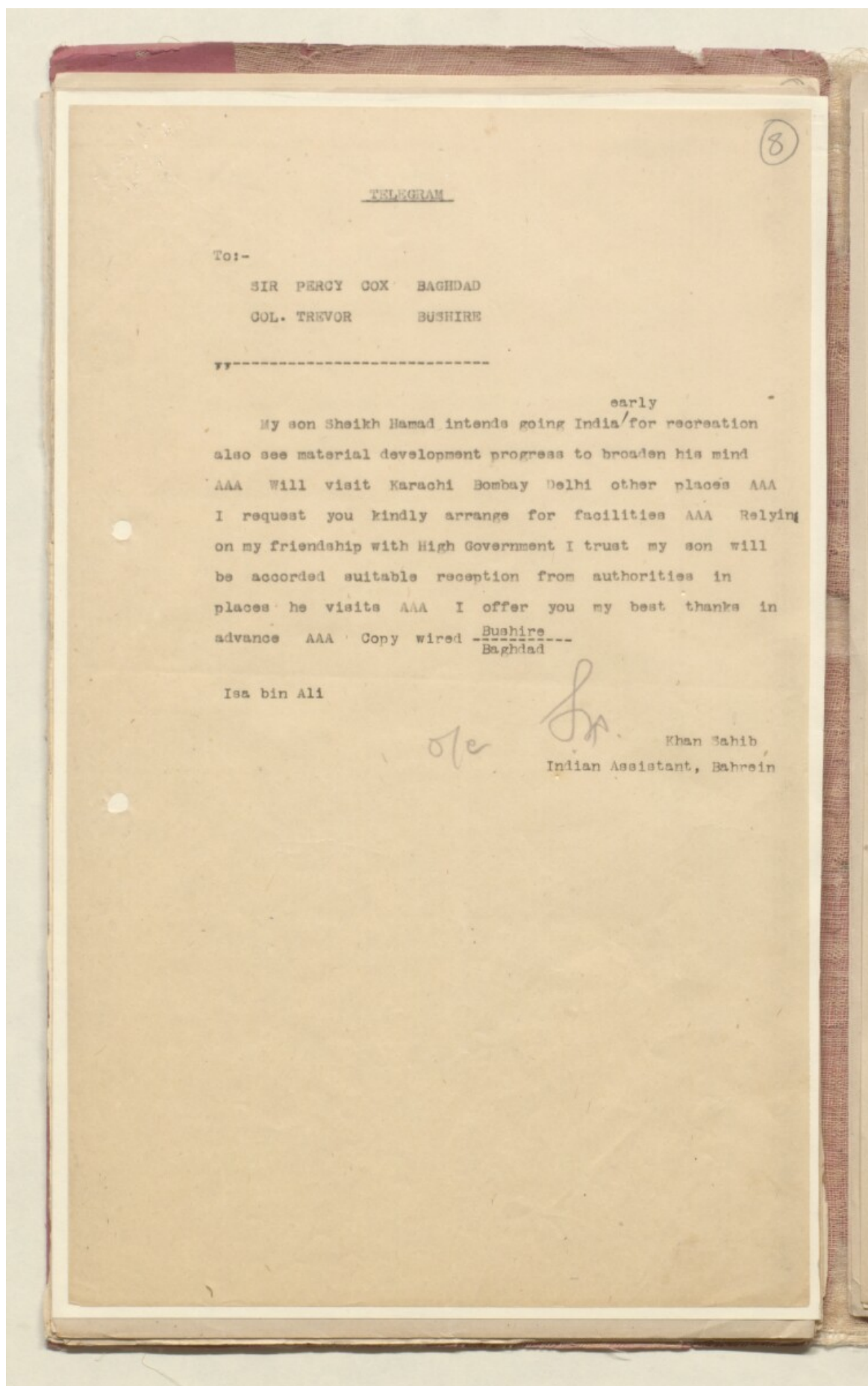
(المضمون)

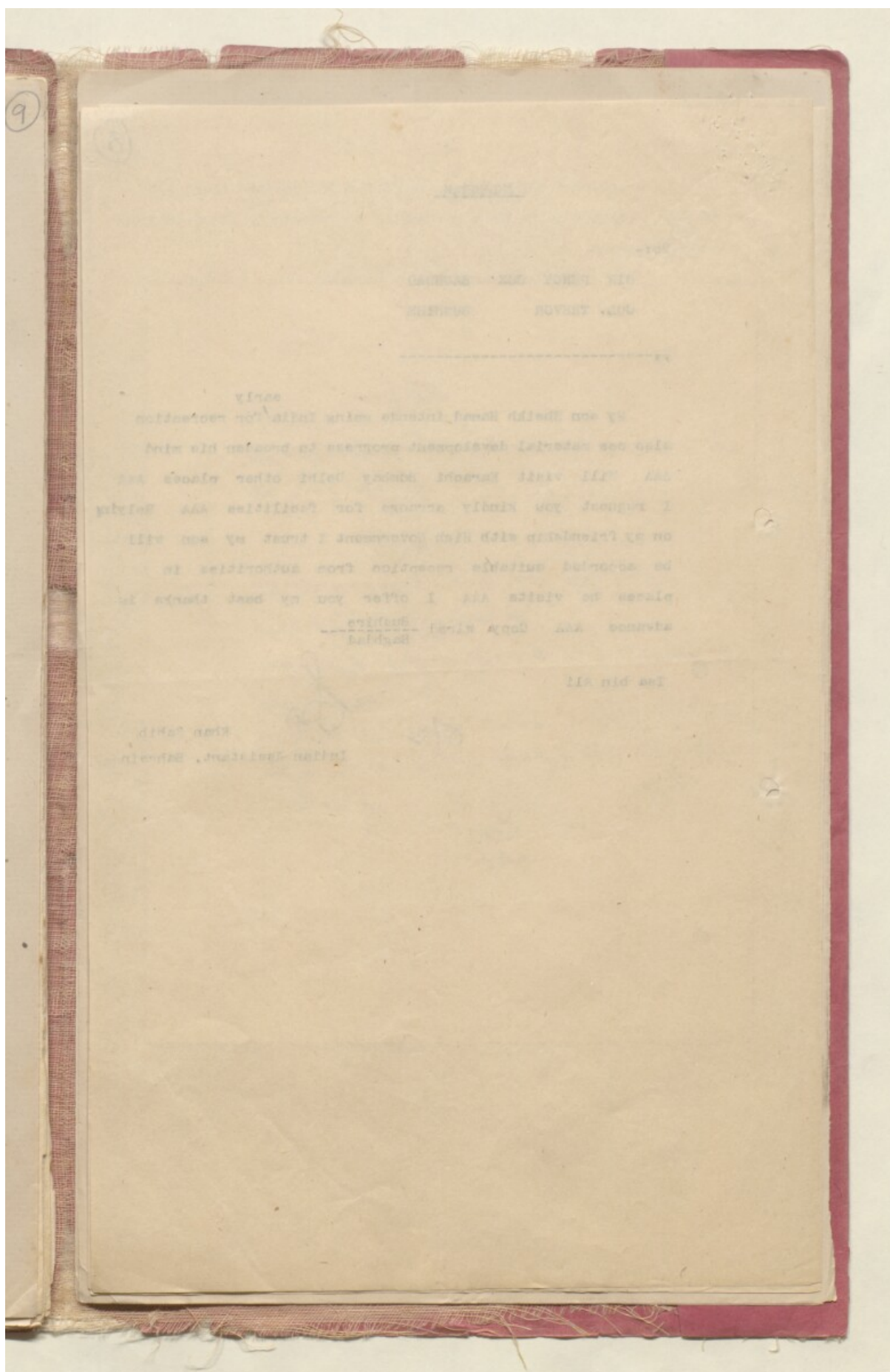
الولد الشيخ حمد غرم على الساحة في الهند في اقرب وقت لاجل التبرزه
ورؤيه الرقي العراي المتبع تودعه للدارك
سيد دركاجي وبوبني ودهلي وغيرها محبكم يلتمس لطفانكم
تعلمون التسهيلات اللازمه
ارتكنا على الصداقه بيني وبين الحكومه المعظمه ان سيقابل ولدنا يا المقابله
اللائقه بمقامه من الحكام الذين سيدورهم في بلدانهم وادعم شكراتي
سلفاً لذاتكم

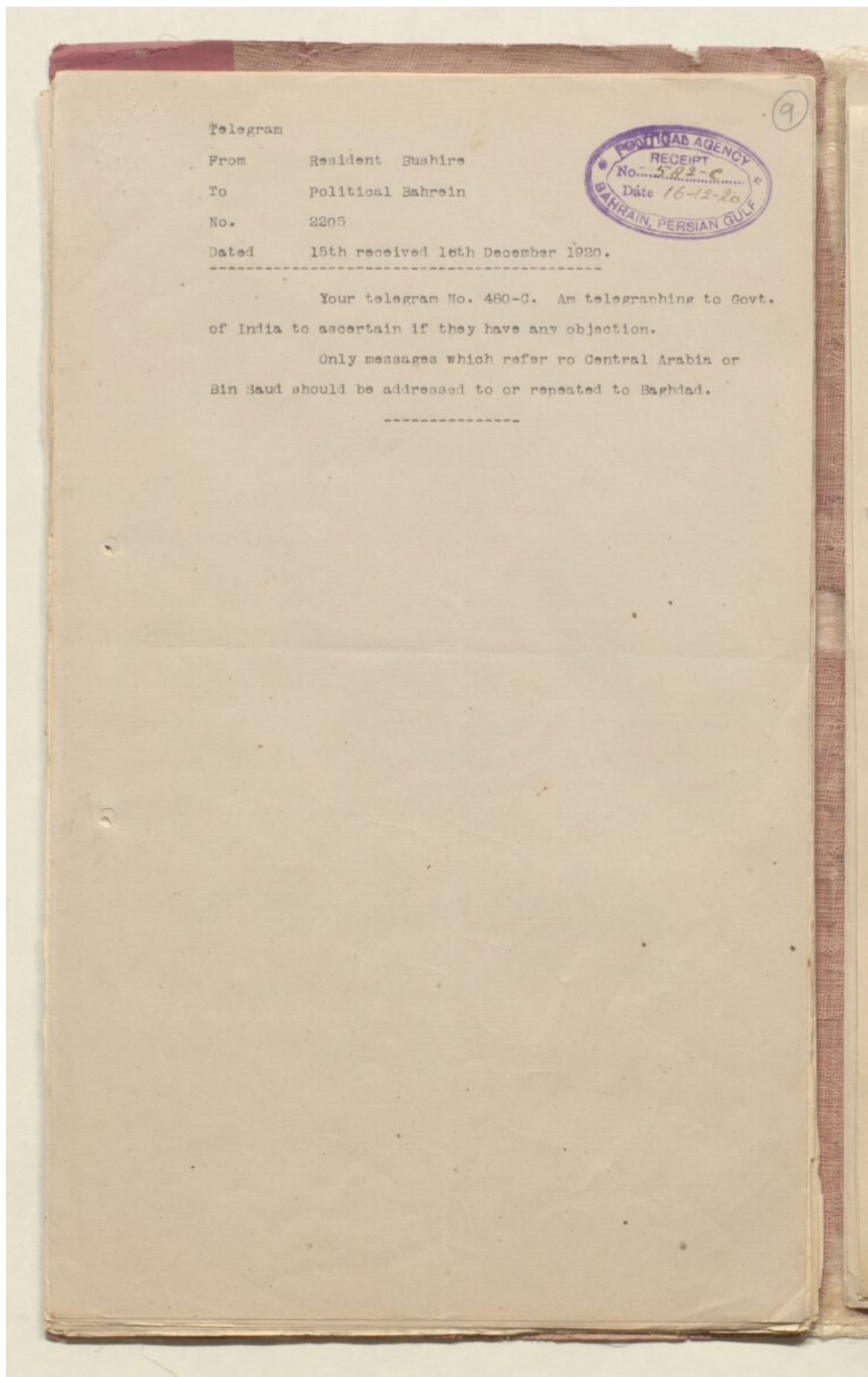
الامضاء
عبدالله علي
حاتم البعري

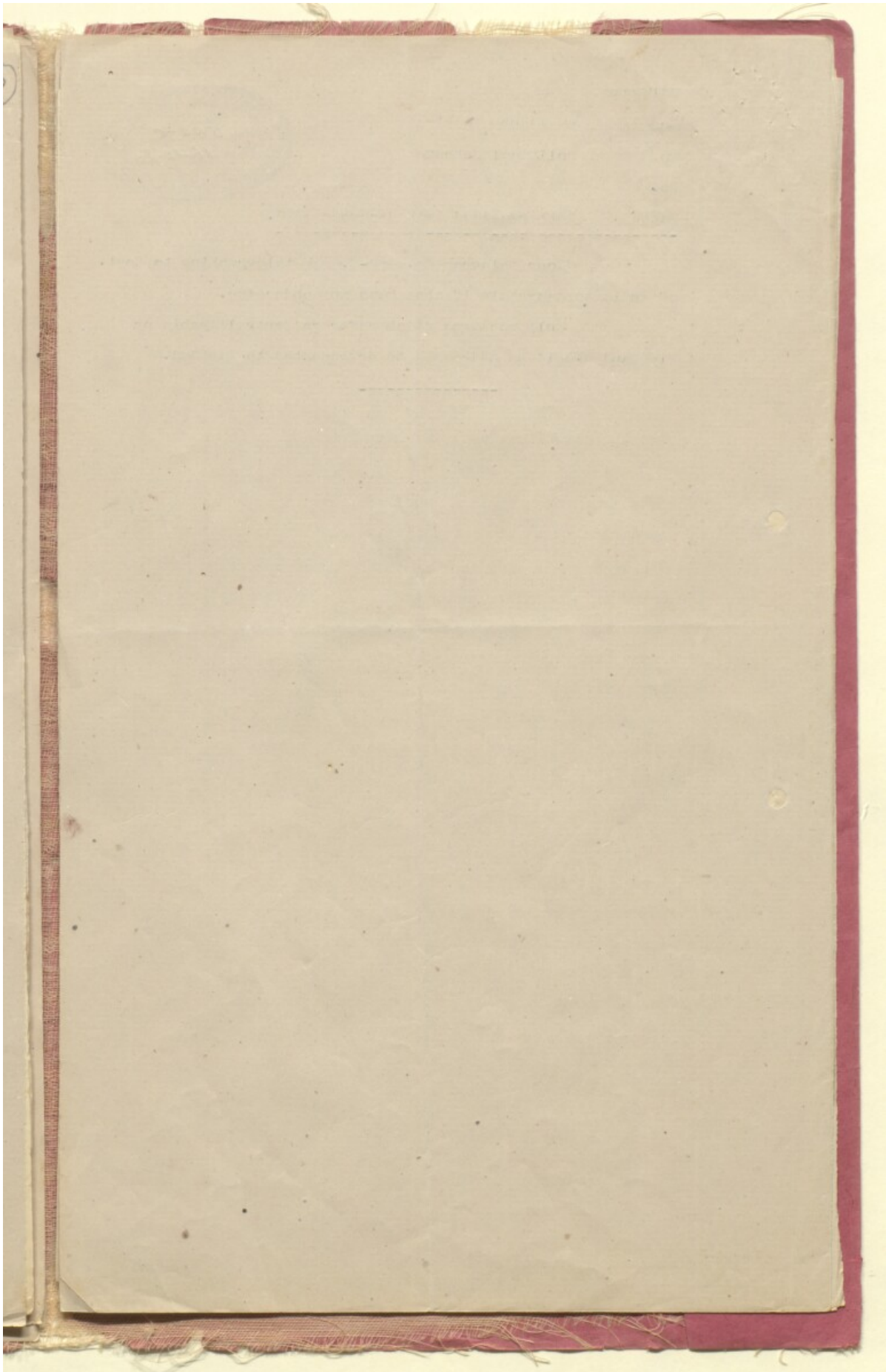
Translated
by
15/12/90













CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 488 -G.

Political Agency, Bahrain.

Dated 19th December, 1920.

To

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

B U S H I R E.

MEMORANDUM

Reference your telegram No. 2205 of the 15th instant.

I beg to report that yesterday, when I called on Sheikh Hamad bin Sheikh Isa, he told me that Sheikh Isa had received a telegram from you saying that the question of Sheikh Hamad going to India had been submitted to Government of India; that Sheikh Isa and he himself were ~~were~~ anxiously awaiting Government's orders. He asked me if I had informed you that his visit was ~~is~~ intended to be a private one, entirely at his own expenses, and not like that of his brother, Sheikh Abdullah, who went as Government's guest. He added that his own chief object was to visit and pay respects to high officials of Government, in India, but without putting Government to any expense, as he and his father owed everything to Government, and only looked to Government for "IKRAM" (honour) during the visit.

Sheikh Hamad also asked me if I thought it possible that you would give him the loan of the "LAWRENCE" to take him to Bombay ^{or} Karachi, if Sheikh Isa asked for it, and said that he himself would deem it as the greatest honour that could be bestowed upon him on this occasion.

I replied that I could not say anything about that with certainty as the "LAWRENCE" was mostly required by you for tours and other Government work in the Gulf stations. He then said that Syed Taimur had been given the privilege of going to and returning from India in "LAWRENCE", and, perhaps, you would favour him too, if Sheikh Isa asked for it, but that he had not till then spoken about it to his father.

I gather Sheikh Hamad intends taking his two small boys

P.T.O.

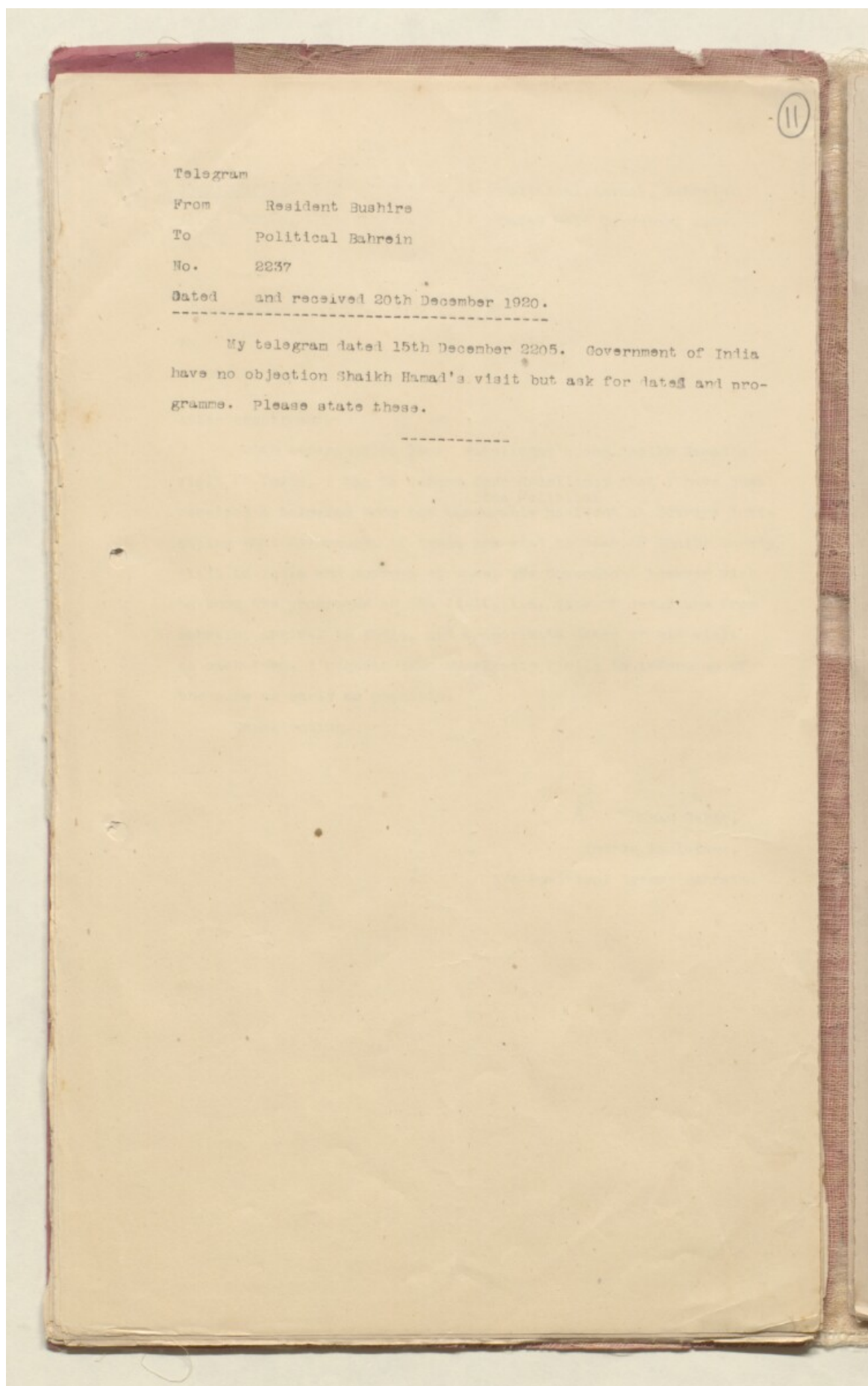


with him, also JASIM CHIRAVI, one clerk and half a dozen attendants, total about 12. He is, of course, very keen on visiting India, and anxiously awaits your permission.

Loeic Xas
Khan Sahib,

Indian Assistant,

In charge ~~for~~ Political Agency,
Bahrein.



Telegram

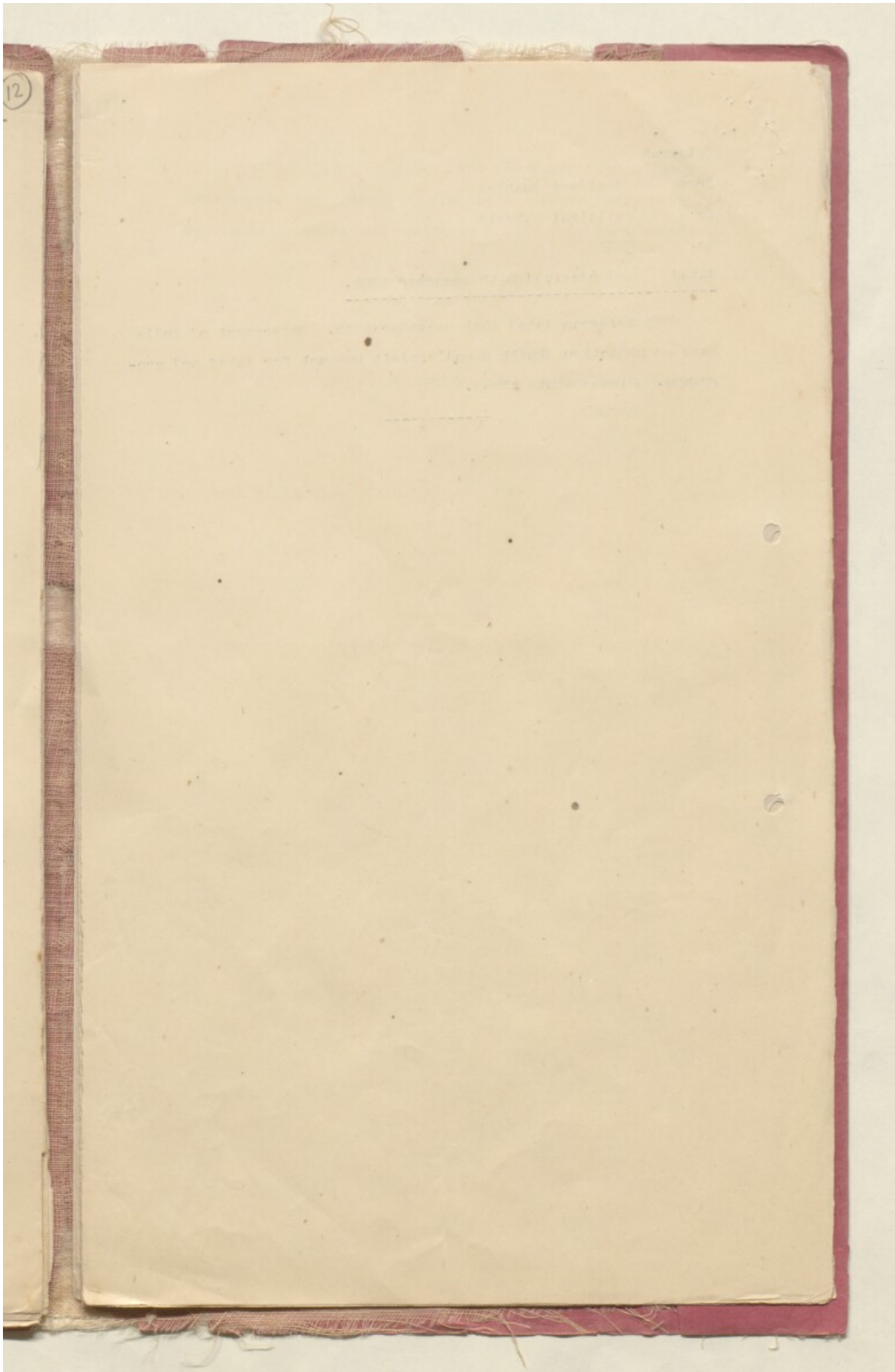
From Resident Bushire

To Political Bahrein

No. 2237

Dated and received 20th December 1920.

My telegram dated 15th December 2205. Government of India have no objection Shaikh Hamad's visit but ask for dated and programme. Please state these.





(12)

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 490-C.

Political Agency, Bahrain.

Dated 20th December, 1920.

To

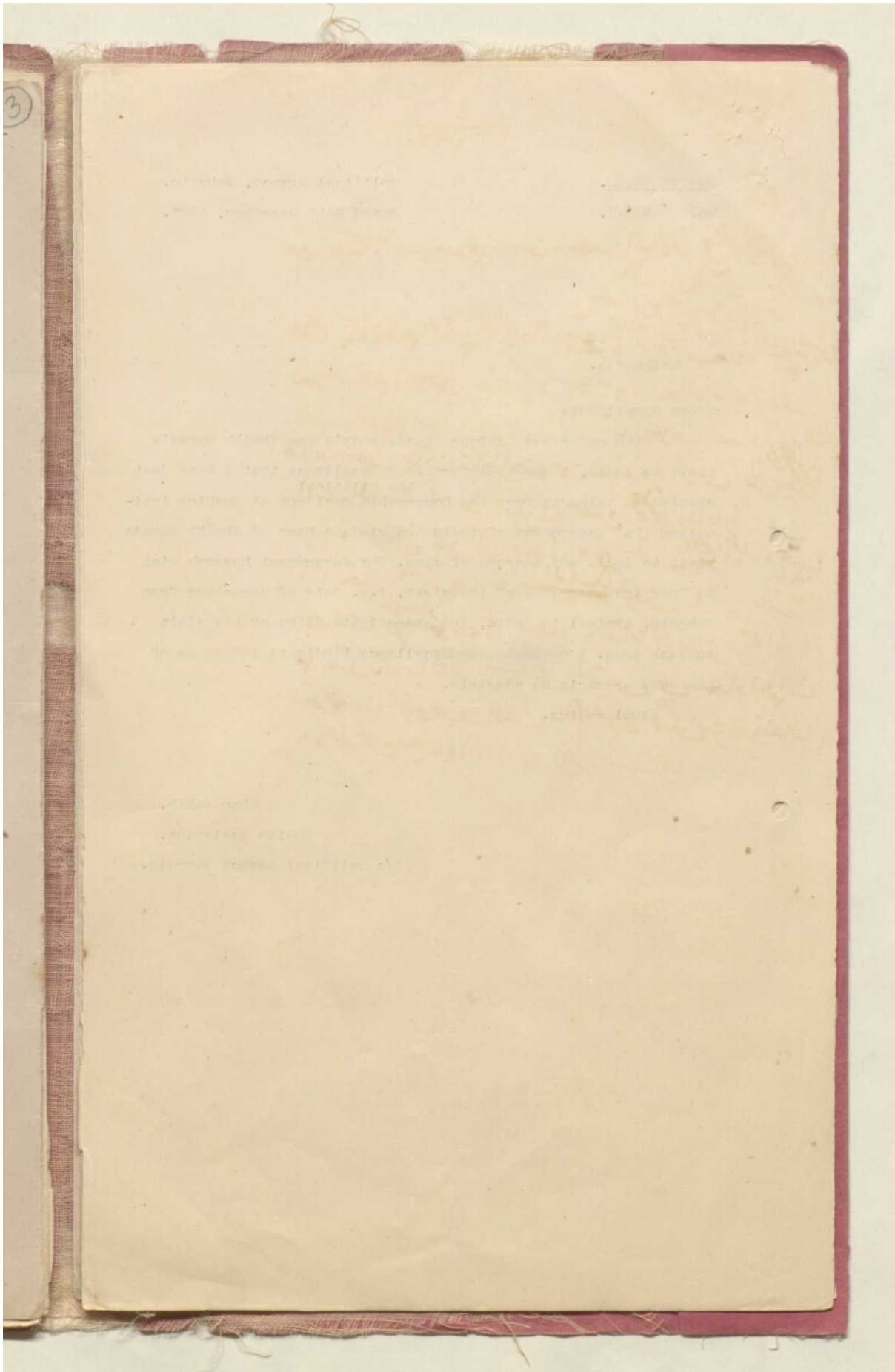
Sheikh Isa.

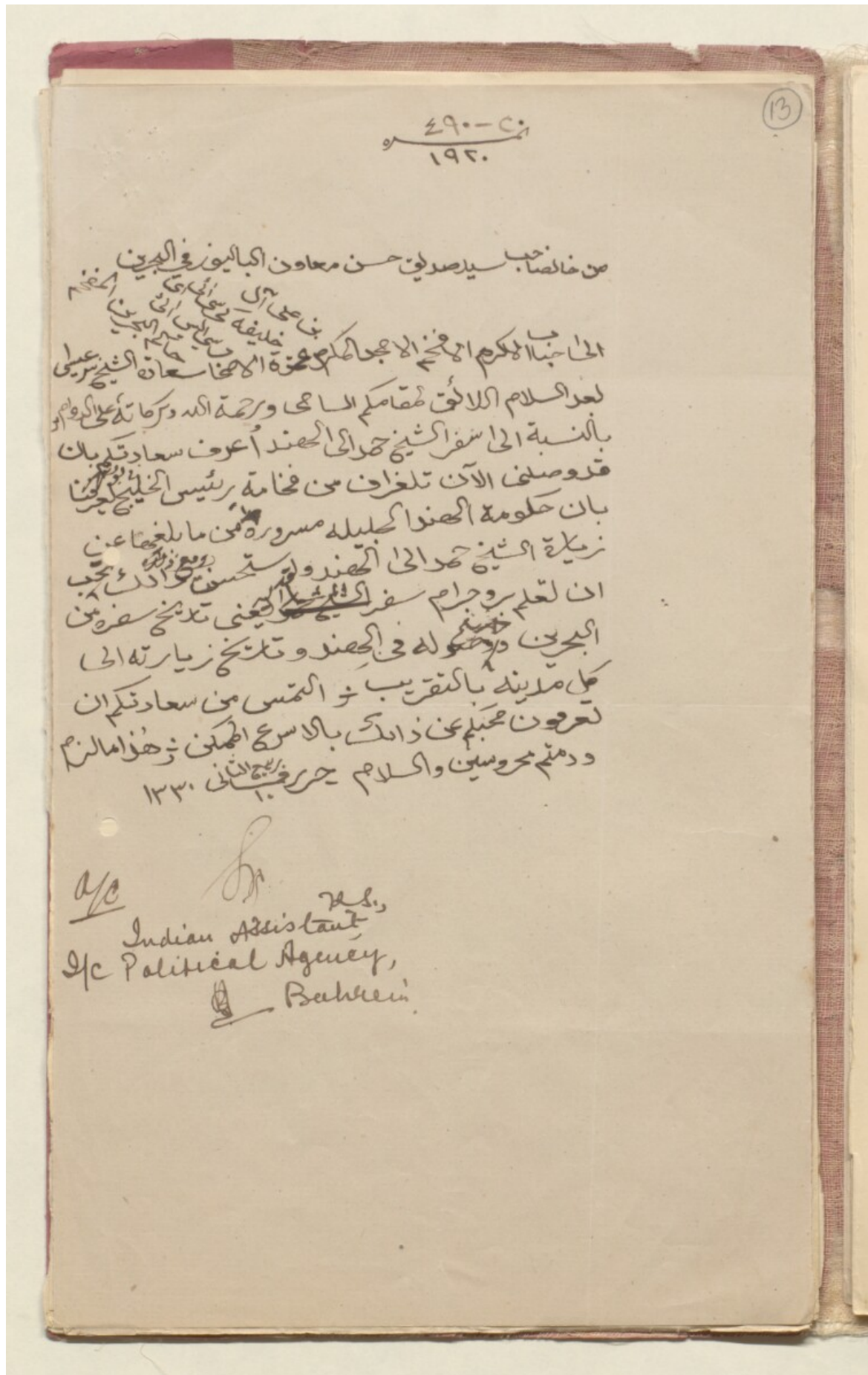
After compliments

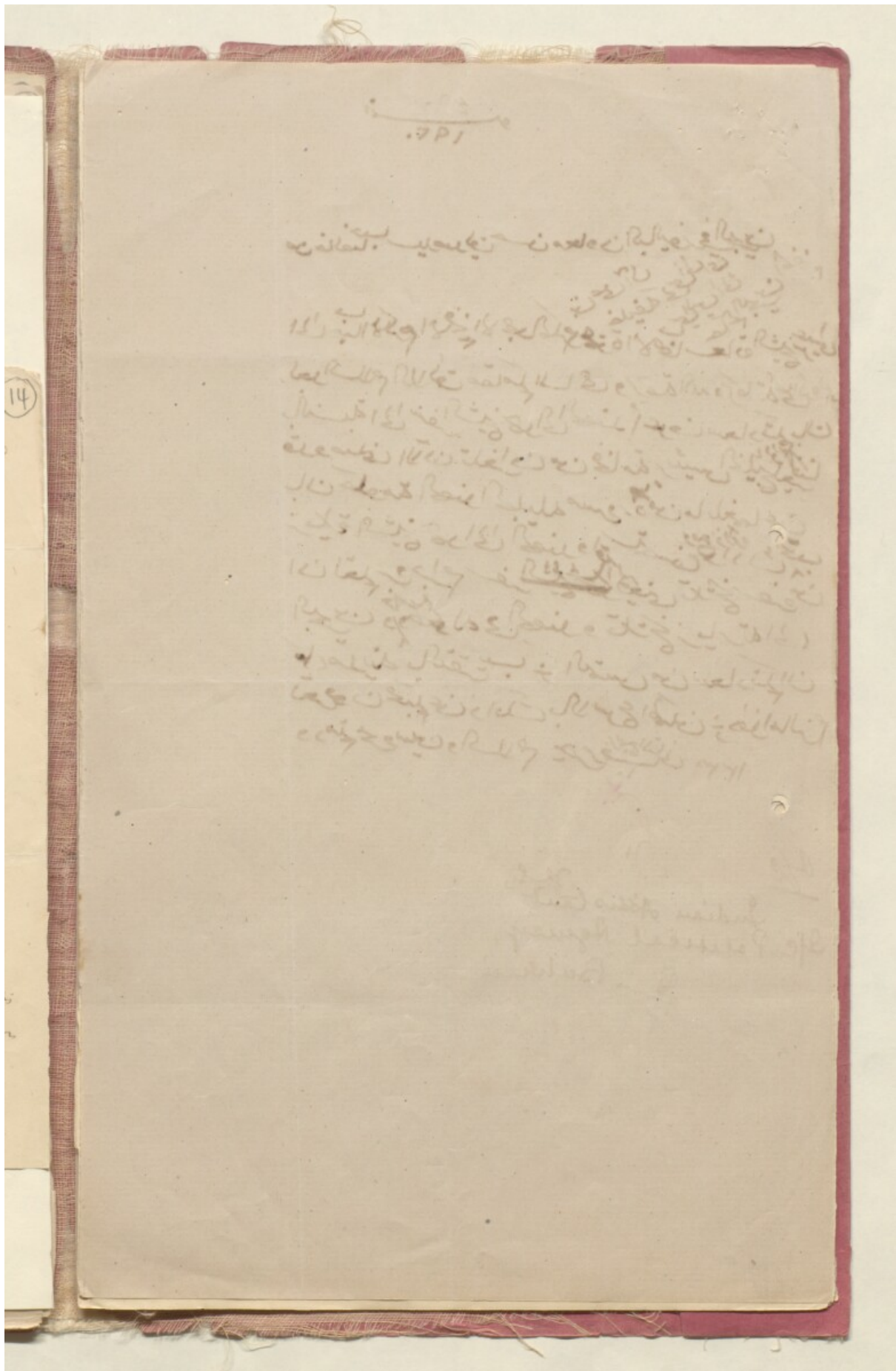
With reference to Your Excellency's son Sheikh Hamad's visit to India, I beg to inform Your Excellency that I have just received a telegram from the Political the Political Resident at Bushire intimating that Government of India are glad to hear of Shaikh Hamad's visit to India and approve of same. The Government however wish to know the programme of the visit, i.e. date of departure from Bahrain, arrival in India, and approximate dates of his visit to each town. I request Your Excellency kindly to inform me of the same as early as possible.

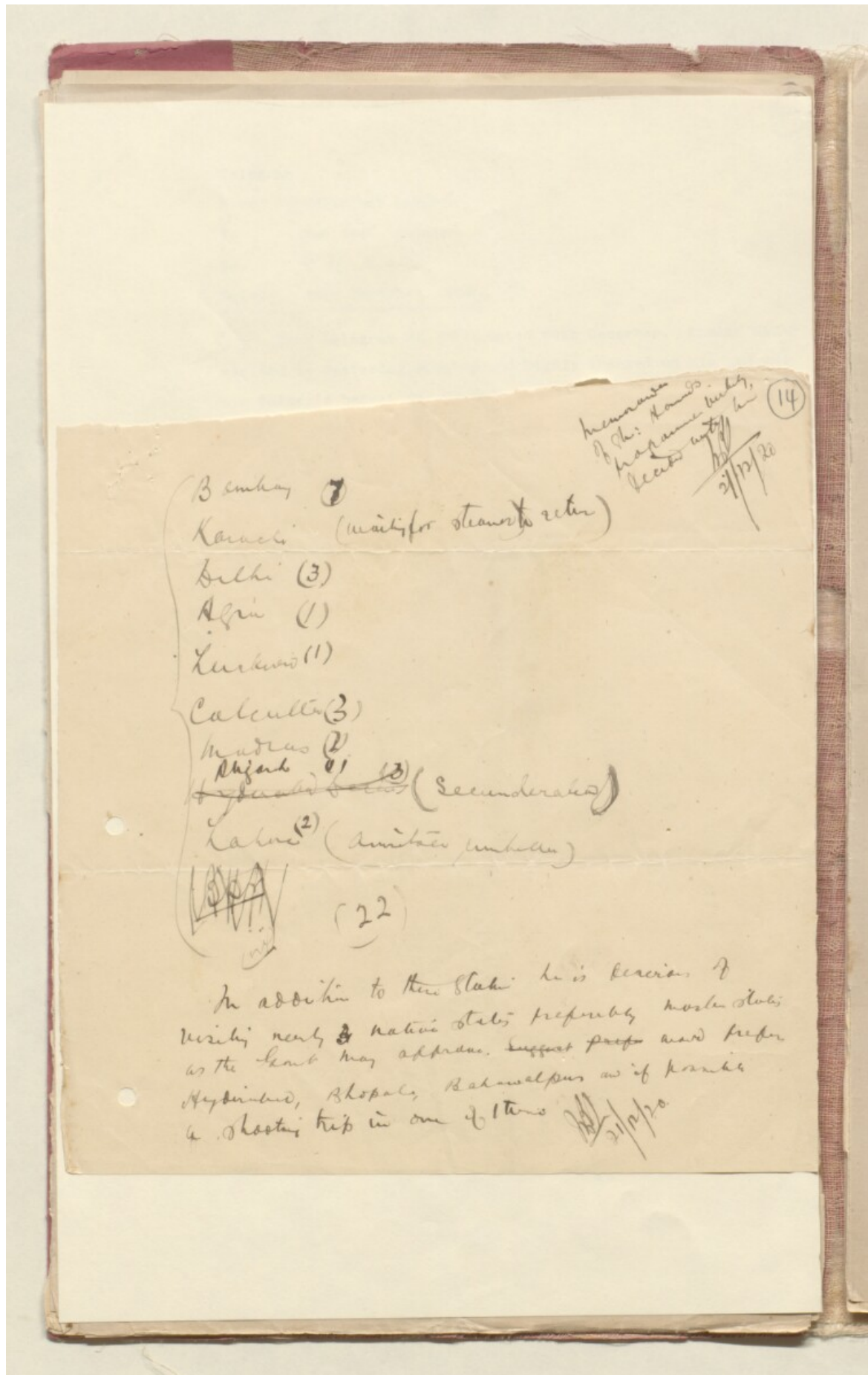
Usual ending.

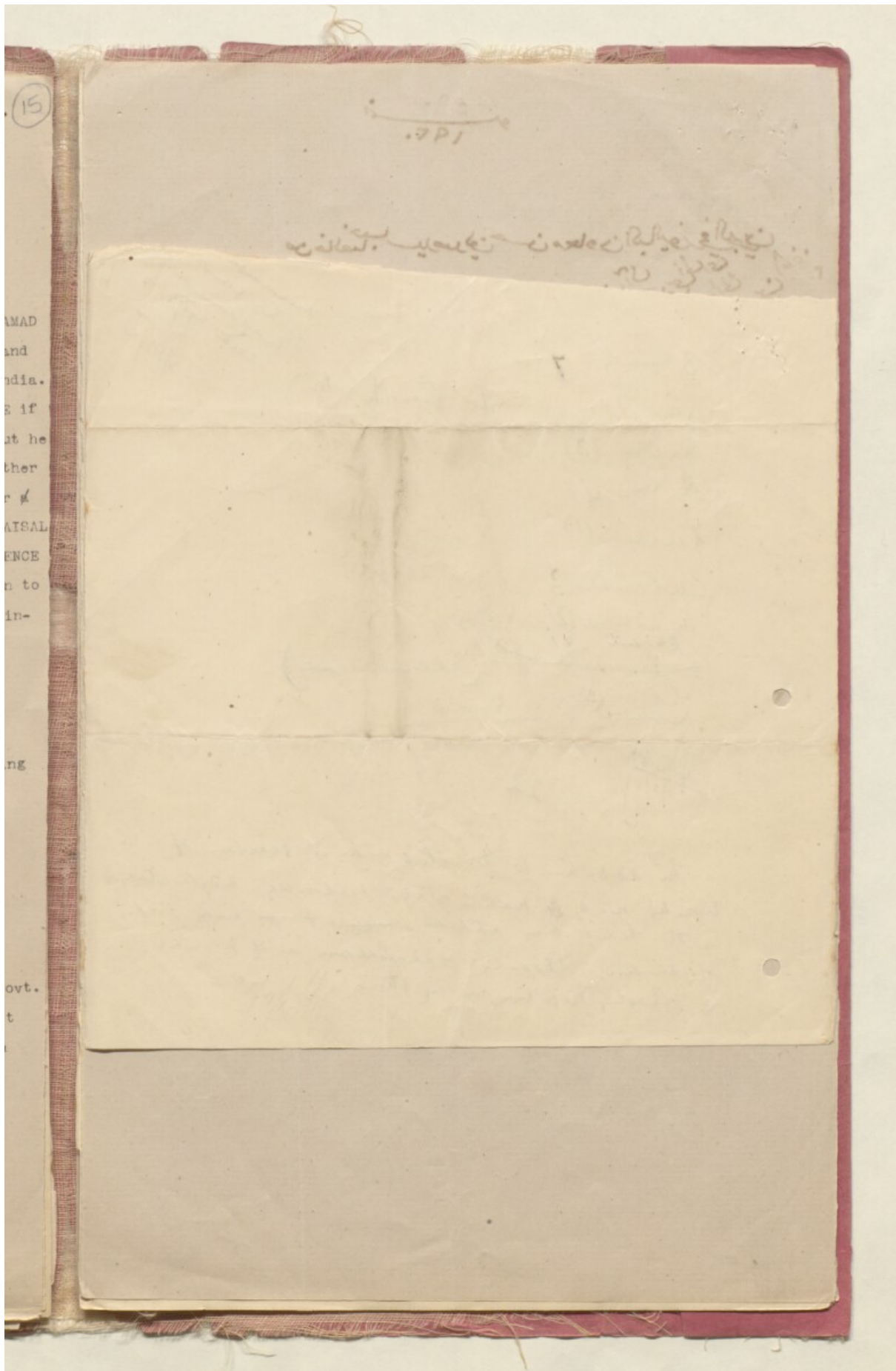
Khan Sahib,
Indian Assistant,
I/c Political Agency Bahrain.













Telegram

From Political Bahrein

To Resident Bushire

No. 491-C.

Dated 22nd December, 1920.

15

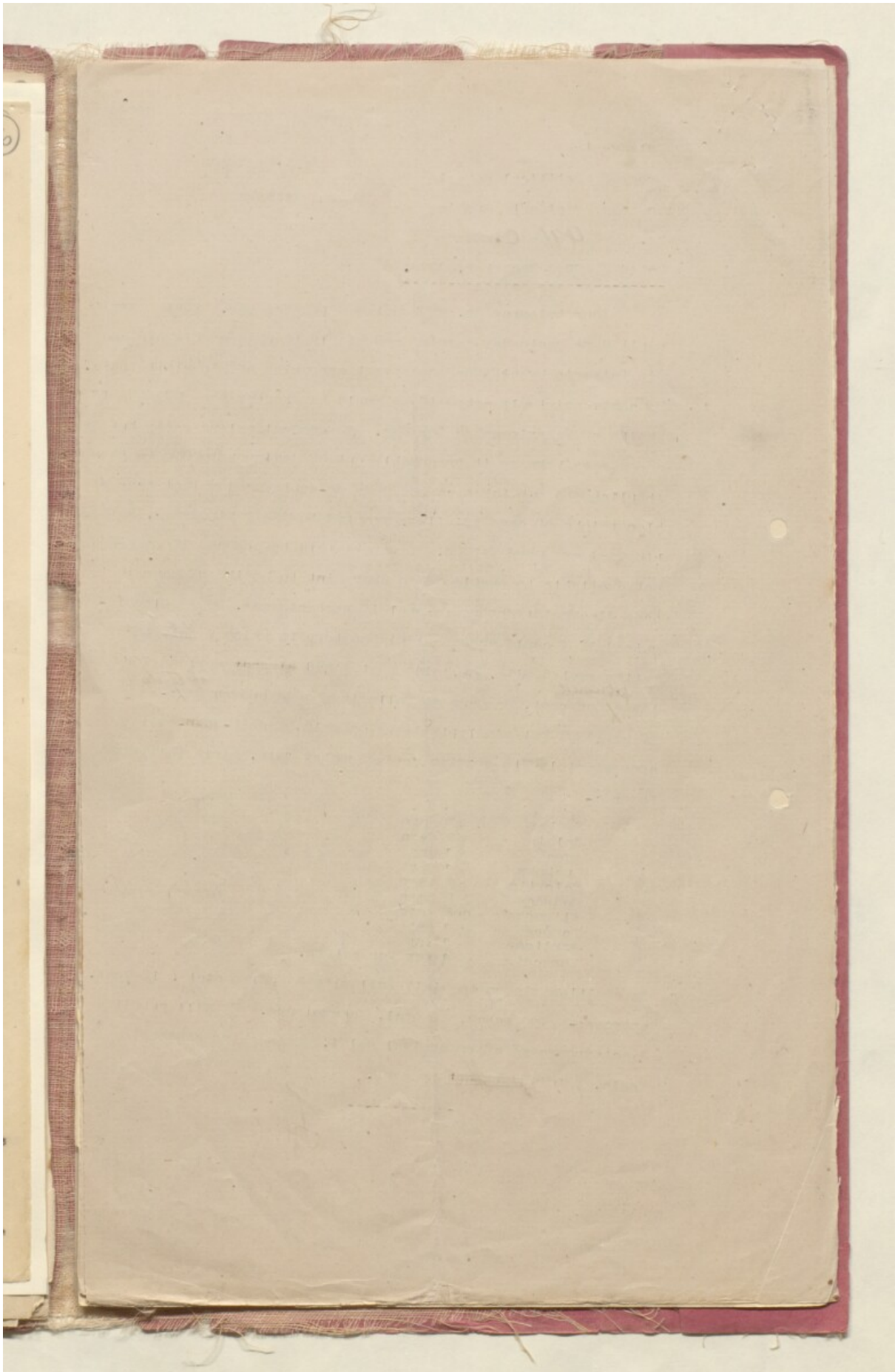
Your telegram No. 2237 dated 20th December. Sheikh HAMAD visited me yesterday evening and highly thanked on his own and his father's behalf for Government approving of his visit India. He again pointedly asked if he would be granted the LAWRENCE if Sheikh of Bahrein asked for her. I gave colourless reply but he seems ^{to be} very keen on it presumably out of jealousy to his brother Abdullah who was taken on LAWRENCE en-route London last year & also thinks of same ^{concession} privilege granted to AHMAD bin JABIR, FAISAL bin SAUD and Syed TAIMUR. I may be told beforehand if LAWRENCE not available to enable me to drop hint to Sheikh of Bahrein to save disappointment on refusal if request made. HAMAD also inquired if I could accompany him on tour to which I ^{replied} said the matter rested with ^{Resident} you, also that I had ~~already~~ applied for leave ^{for himself} for rest. He gave me following rough programme ^{of tour}:-

If LAWRENCE not available leave Bahrein by next ~~post~~ mail approximately 6th proximo arrive Bombay 15th. Visit following towns :-

Bombay	7 days
Delhi	3 days
Agra	1 day
Lucknow	1 day
Calcutta	3 days
Madras	2 days
Aligarh	one day
Lahore	1 day
Amritsar	1 day
Karachi	2 days for return.

In addition wishes to visit following 3 Muslem states if Govt. approve:- Hyderabad, Bhopal, Bahawalpore. He will submit exact programme after arrival Delhi. Spends two months in India. Detailed ~~report~~ ^{report} by post.

Ln.





CONFIDENTIAL.

xxx No-492-C.

Political Agency, Bahrain.

Dated 22nd December, 1920.

To

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

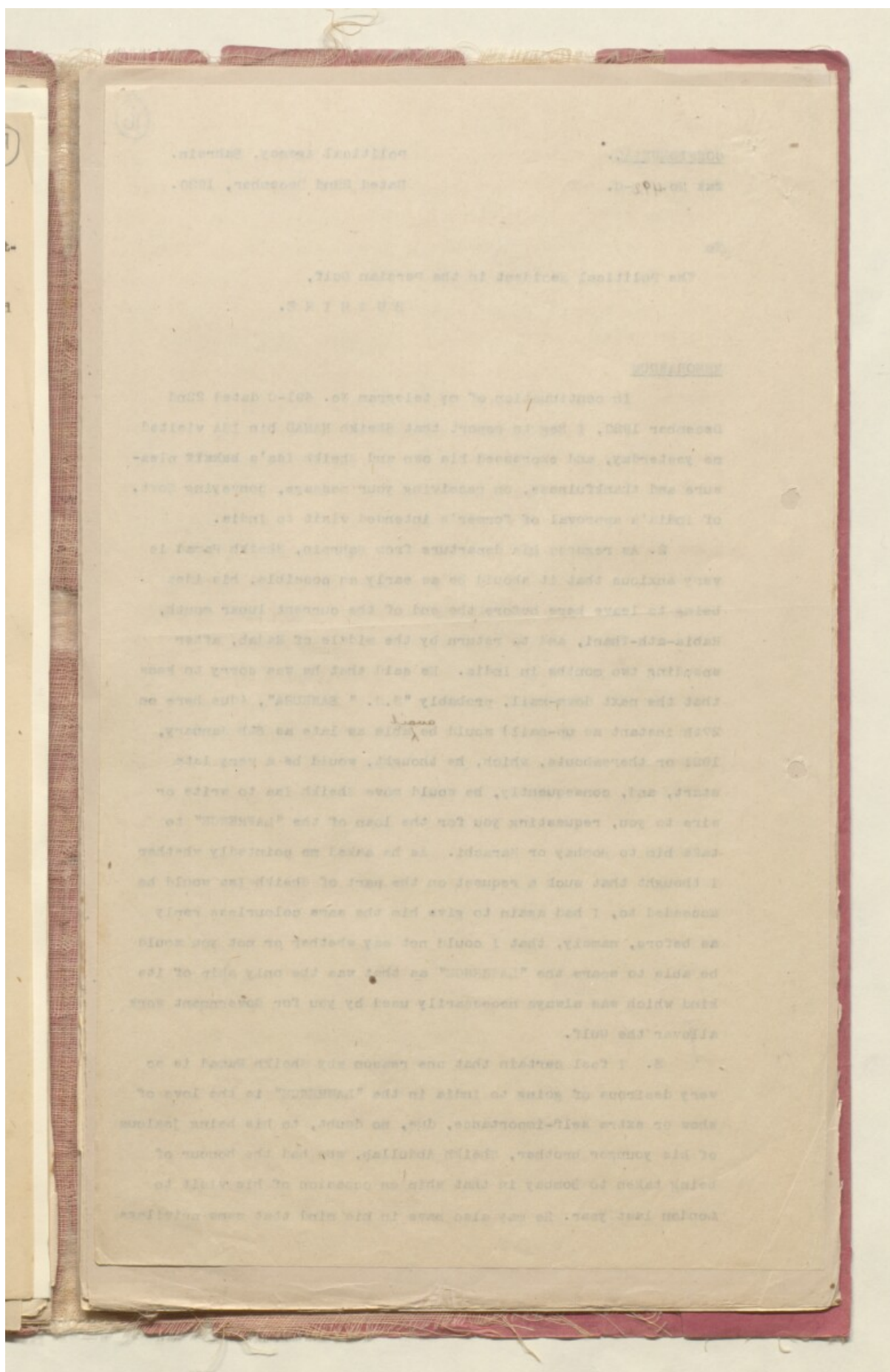
B U S H I R E.

MEMORANDUM

In continuation of my telegram No. 491-C dated 22nd December 1920, I beg to report that Sheikh HAMAD bin ISA visited me yesterday, and expressed his own and Sheikh Isa's ~~best~~ pleasure and thankfulness, on receiving your message, conveying Govt. of India's approval of former's intended visit to India.

2. As regards his departure from Bahrain, Sheikh Hamad is very anxious that it should be as early as possible, his idea being to leave here before the end of the current lunar month, Rabia-ath-Thani, and to return by the middle of Rajab, after spending two months in India. He said that he was sorry to know that the next down-mail, probably "S.S. " BANKURA", (due here on 27th instant as up-mail) would be ^{avail}able as late as 6th January, 1921 or thereabouts, which, he thought, would be a very late start, and, consequently, he would move Sheikh Isa to write or wire to you, requesting you for the loan of the "LAWRENCE" to take him to Bombay or Karachi. As he asked me pointedly whether I thought that such a request on the part of Sheikh Isa would be succeeded to, I had again to give him the same colourless reply as before, namely, that I could not say whether or not you would be able to spare the "LAWRENCE" as that was the only ship of its kind which was always necessarily used by you for Government work all over the Gulf.

3. I feel certain that one reason why Sheikh Hamad is so very desirous of going to India in the "LAWRENCE" is the love of show or extra self-importance, due, no doubt, to his being jealous of his younger brother, Sheikh Abdullah, who had the honour of being taken to Bombay in that ship on occasion of his visit to London last year. He may also have in his mind that same privilege





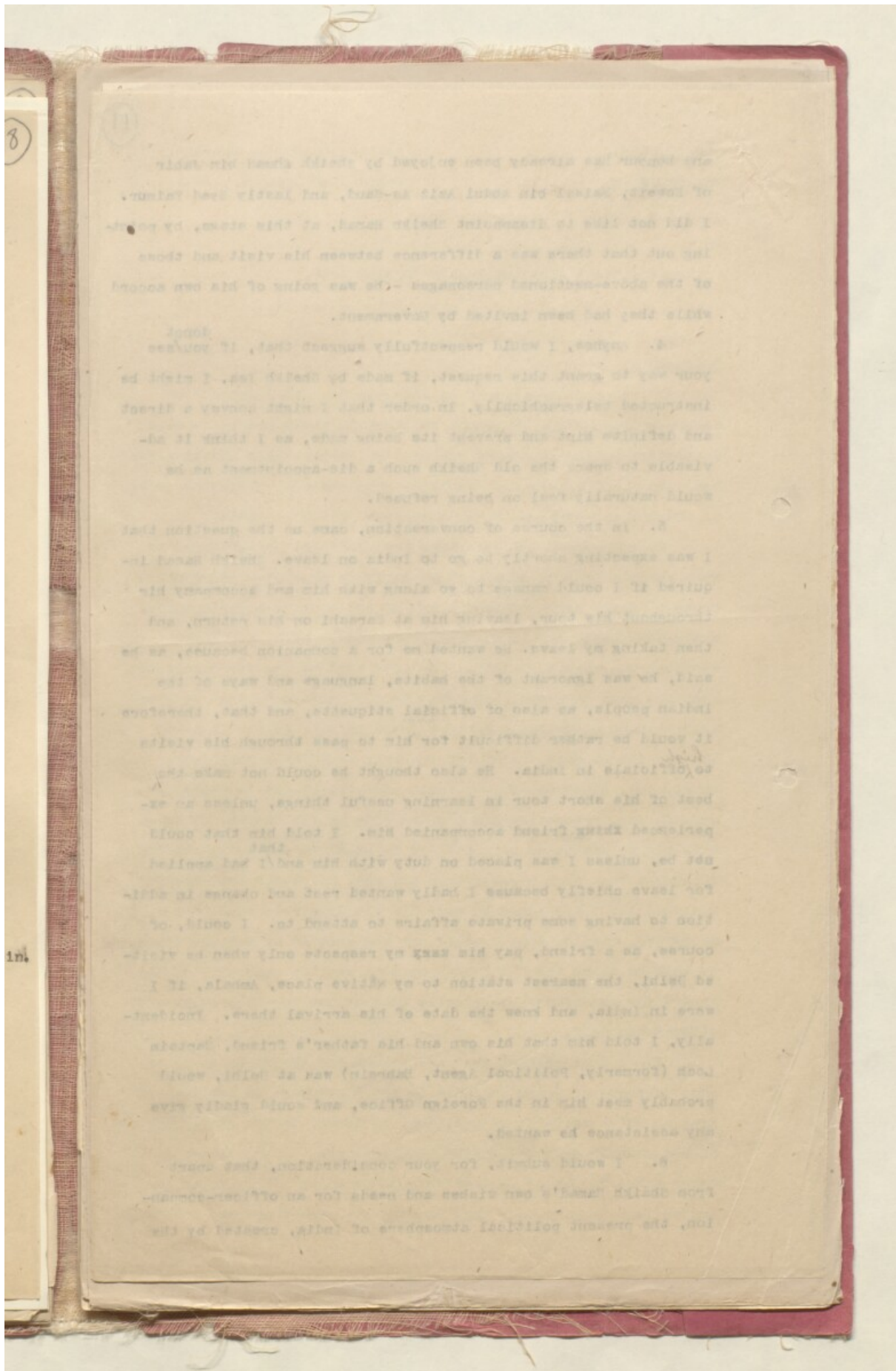
(17)

and honour has already been enjoyed by Sheikh Ahmad bin Jabir of Koweit, Faisal bin Abdul Aziz As-Saud, and lastly Syed Taimur. I did not like to disappoint Sheikh Hamad, at this stage, by pointing out that there was a difference between his visit and those of the above-mentioned personages - he was going of his own accord while they had been invited by Government.

4. Anyhow, I would respectfully suggest that, if you^{do not}/see your way to grant this request, if made by Sheikh Isa, I might be instructed telegraphically, in order that I might convey a direct and definite hint and prevent its being made, as I think it advisable to spare the old Sheikh such a dis-appointment as he would naturally feel on being refused.

5. In the course of conversation, came up the question that I was expecting shortly to go to India on leave. Sheikh Hamad inquired if I could manage to go along with him and accompany him throughout his tour, leaving him at Karachi on his return, and then taking my leave. He wanted me for a companion because, as he said, he was ignorant of the habits, language and ways of the Indian people, as also of official etiquette, and that, therefore it would be rather difficult for him to pass through his visits to ^{high}officials in India. He also thought he could not make the best of his short tour in learning useful things, unless an experienced ~~king~~ friend accompanied him. I told him that could ^{that} not be, unless I was placed on duty with him and I had applied for leave chiefly because I badly wanted rest and change in addition to having some private affairs to attend to. I could, of course, as a friend, pay him ~~xxx~~ my respects only when he visited Delhi, the nearest station to my native place, Ambala, if I were in India, and knew the date of his arrival there. Incidentally, I told him that his own and his father's friend, Captain Loch (formerly, Political Agent, Bahrain) was at Delhi, would probably meet him in the Foreign Office, and would gladly give any assistance he wanted.

6. I would submit, for your consideration, that apart from Shaikh Hamad's own wishes and needs for an officer-companion, the present political atmosphere of India, created by the





18

"Khilafat" movement and other similar political propaganda, seems to make it desirable that his tour were made under supervision and guidance of a Government official in order to prevent his virgin mind from contracting un-sound ideas and impressions.

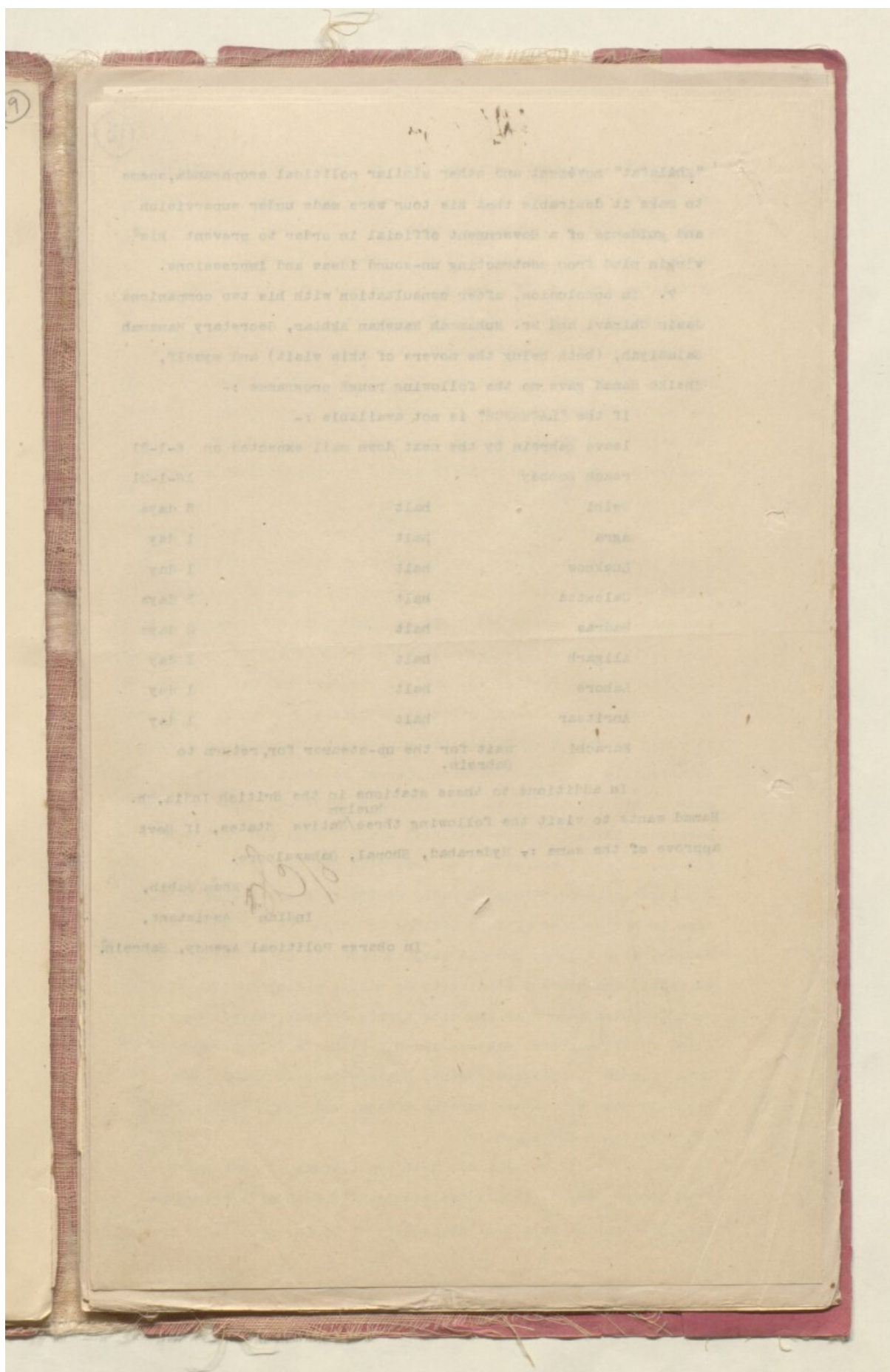
7. In conclusion, after consultation with his two companions Jasim Chiravi and Mr. Muhammad Raushan Akhtar, Secretary Manamah Baladiyah, (both being the movers of this visit) and myself, Sheikh Hamad gave me the following rough programme :-

If the "LAWRENCE" is not available :-

leave Bahrein by the next down mail expected on	6-1-21
reach Bombay	16-1-21
Delhi	halt 3 days
Agra	halt 1 day
Lucknow	halt 1 day
Calcutta	halt 3 days
Madras	halt 2 days
Aligarh	halt 1 day
Lahore	halt 1 day
Amritsar	halt 1 day
Karachi	wait for the up-steamer for return to Bahrein.

In additions to these stations in the British India, Sh. Hamad wants to visit the following three ^{Muslem} Native States, if Govt approve of the same : Hyderabad, Bhopal, Bahawalpore.

W.C.F.
Khan Sahib,
Indian Assistant,
In charge Political Agency, Bahrein.





CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 495 -C.

Political Agency, Bahrein.

Dated 23rd December, 1920.

To

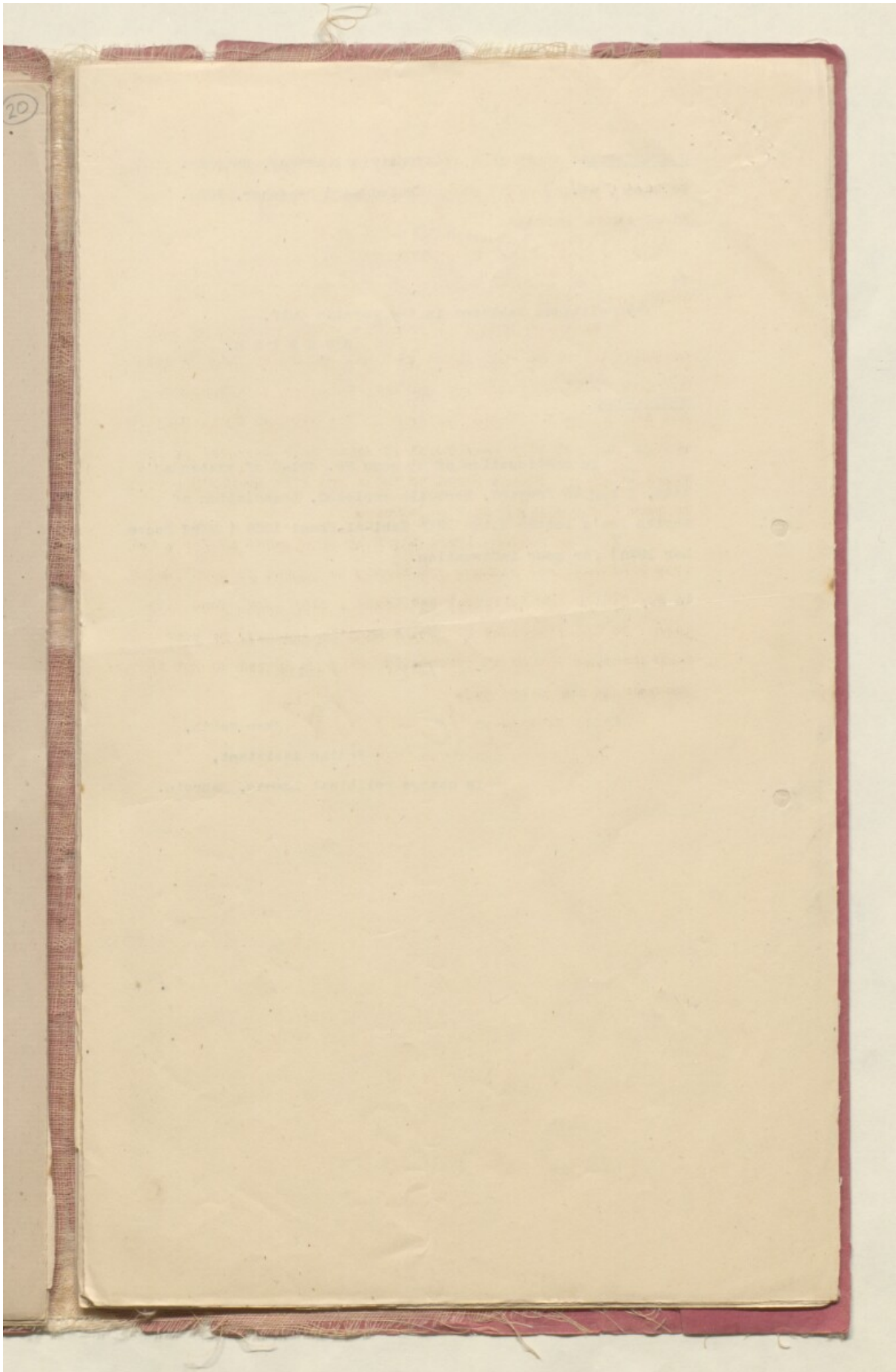
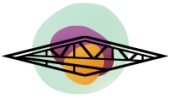
The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

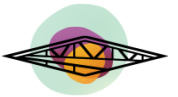
B U S H I R E.

MEMORANDUM

In continuation of my memo No. 491-C of yesterday's date, I beg to forward, herewith enclosed, translation of Sheikh Isa's letter dated 12th Rabi-al-Thani 1339 (23rd December 1920) for your information.

o/c *Ln* Khan Sahib,
Indian Assistant,
In charge Political Agency, Bahrein.





(20)

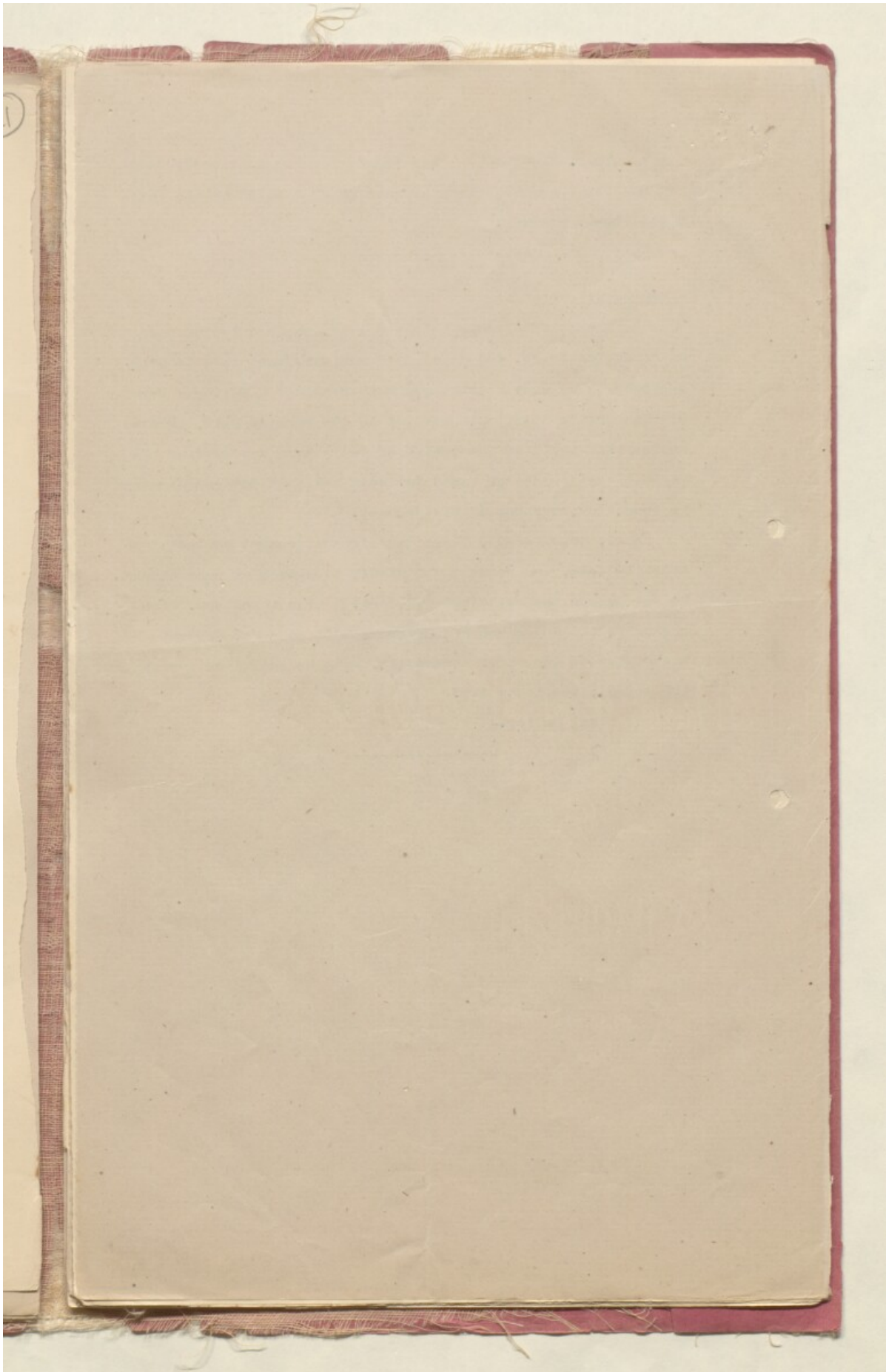
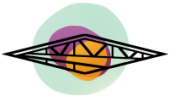
Translation of a letter dated 18th Rabi-al-Awwal 1339
(= 22nd December 1920) from the Sheikh of Bahrein to the Political Agent, Bahrein.

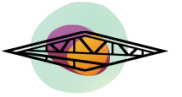
After compliments

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your esteemed letter No. 490 dated 10th Rabi-al-Thani 1339 (= 20th December 1920) stating that you have received a telegram from His Honour the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire saying that the High Government of India have approved of the visit of my son Sheikh Hamad to India and that Government wish to know the programme of his journey.

I, your friend, thank the High Government of India for this kindness, and request you kindly to convey my best thanks to His Honour the Political Resident. I also thank you. With regard to the programme of Sheikh Hamad's journey, he must have informed you of it personally, when he called on you at the Agency, the other day.

Usual Ending--





(21)

الحمد
في اليوم
البارئ

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

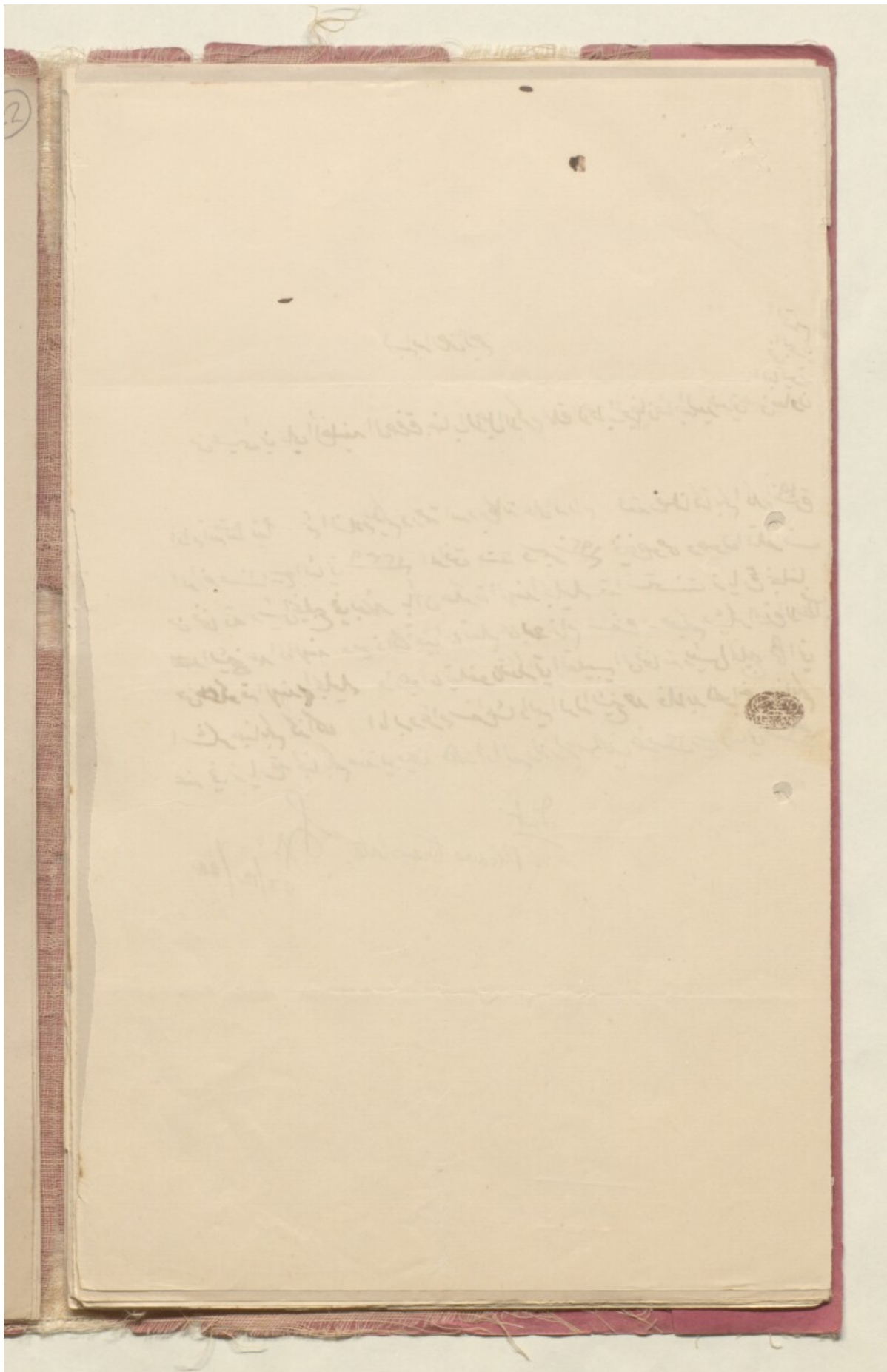
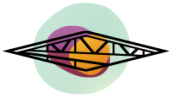
من عيسى بن علي الخطيب المصنف جناب الاعلى الاكرم عمدة الاحباب الميرزا صاحب الميرزا محمد بن حسن معاون

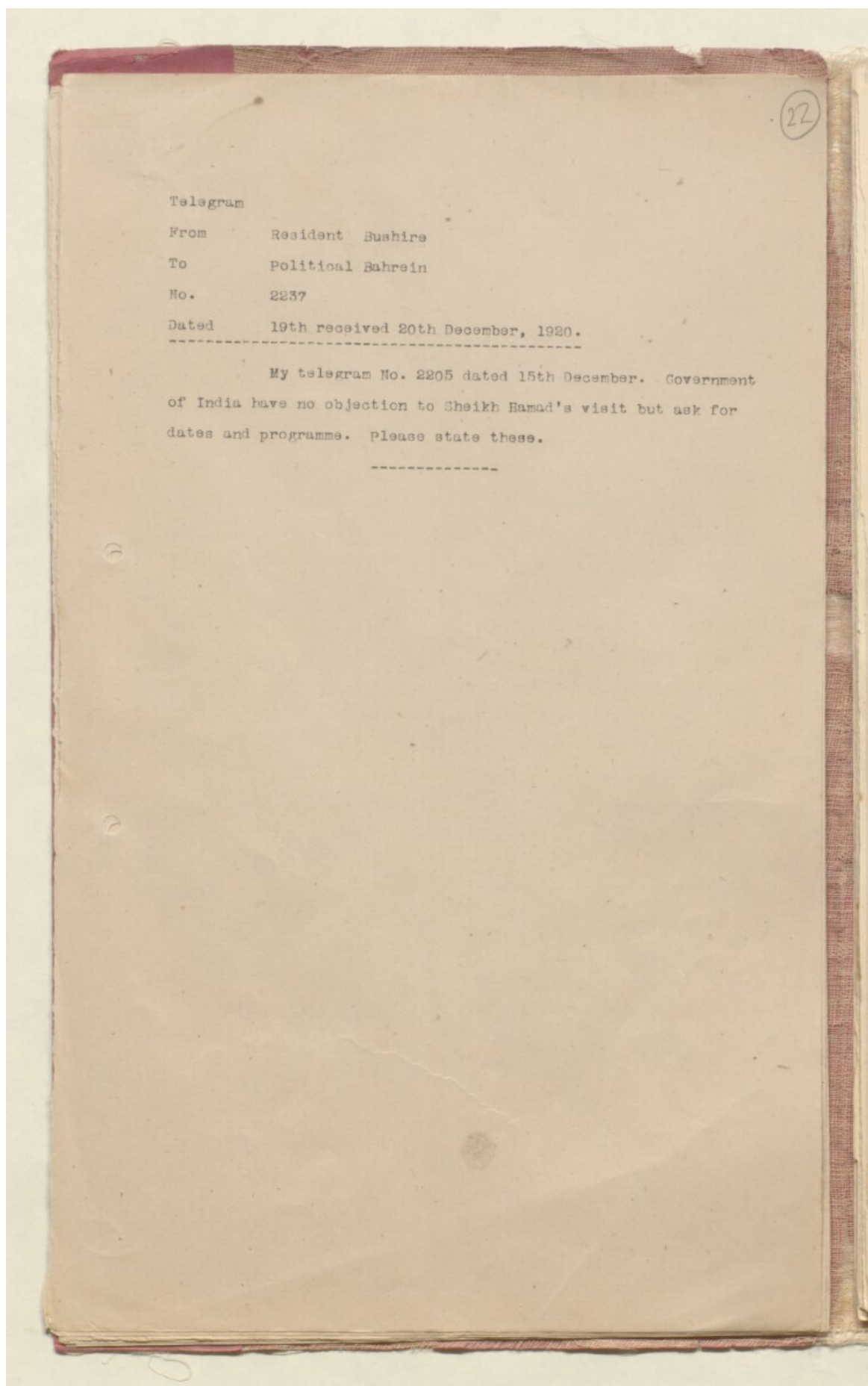
ادام الله تعالى نعم السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته على الدوام لقد ضلنا كتابكم المذكر في
المؤرخ من اربع النسخ في ٩٢٩٩ الموافق سنة ١٢٩٩ في صوم ووصولنا لتعرف
من فخامة رئيس الخليج في بئر با أن حكومة الهند الجليل قد استجبت لزيارتنا
لنصل اليكم في الهند ومع ذلك تجدان تعلم عن بوعثمان سنة - محبة فيكم هذه الاطلا
عن حكومة الهند الجليل وارجوا ان ينفذوا في القريب الى فخامة رئيس الخليج كما اني
اشكر جنابكم كذا كما اما بدو غرام سفرنا الى الهند والشيخ محمد فلا بد هو اخبر جنابكم
عنه في زيارته لجنابكم منذ يومين هذا ما نله ولا نرحم سائنا في سنة ١٢٩٩

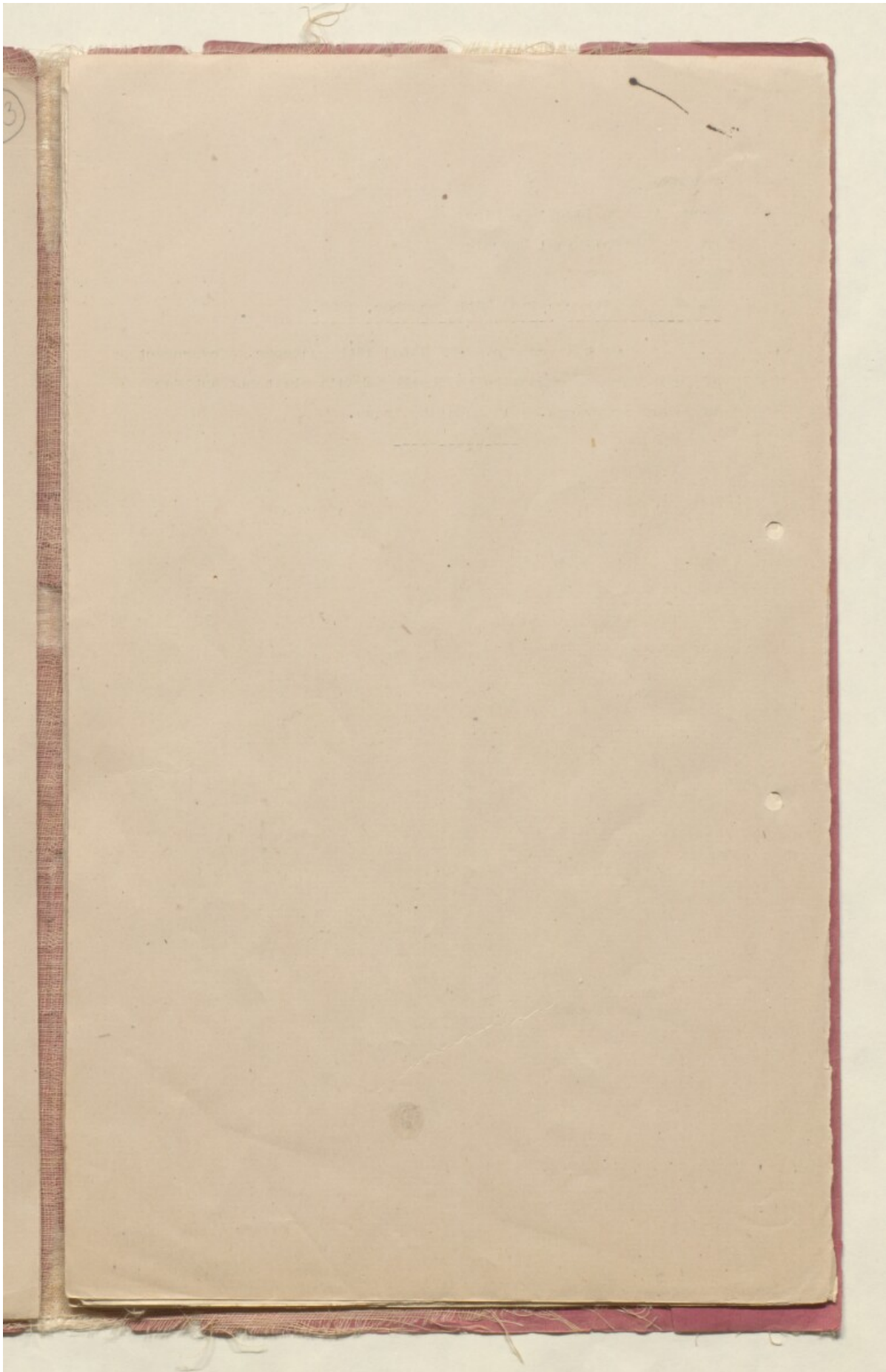
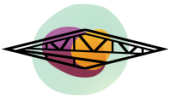
Int.

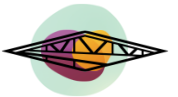
Please translate.

Sp.
93/12/20









23

Telegram

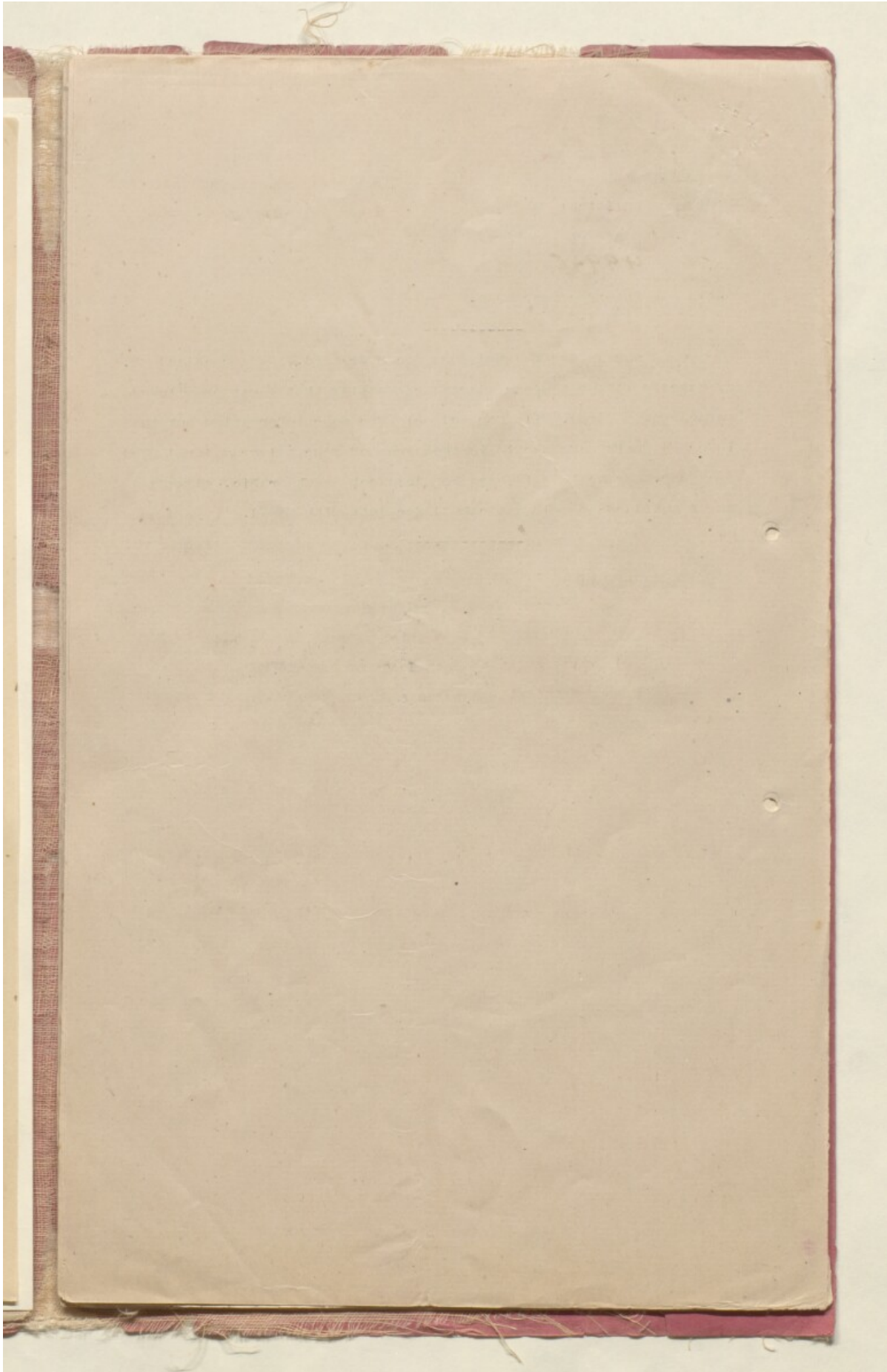
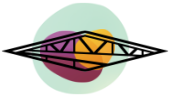
From Resident Bushire

To Political Bahrein

No. 2264.

Dated 23rd received 24th December 1920.

Your telegram No. 491-C dated 22nd December 1920.
R.I.M.S. Lawrence is already engaged to take Rear Admiral, Director
Persian
of Royal Indian Marine for tour round ~~Indian~~ Gulf Ports from 7th
January 1921 so ship will not be able. In any case you might hint
to Sheikh Hamad that condition under which sons of Amir of Nejd
and Sheikh of Bahrein and Sheikh of Koweit had use of R.I.M.S.
Lawrence were very different; they were going by special invitation
to see His Majesty King Emperor of India. Besides at that time
B.I. steamers were few and far between. As regards your accompany-
ing Sheikh Hamad, I regret that owing to Major Dicksons recall
(to Mesopotamia ?) it will be impossible to spare you until new
Political Agent has arrived and become acquainted with place and
work. If it were not for this, you would have gone on leave
already. It would however be a good thing for Hamad to have some
body who knows India with him. Is there any suitable person at
Bahrein. Is your brother still there ?



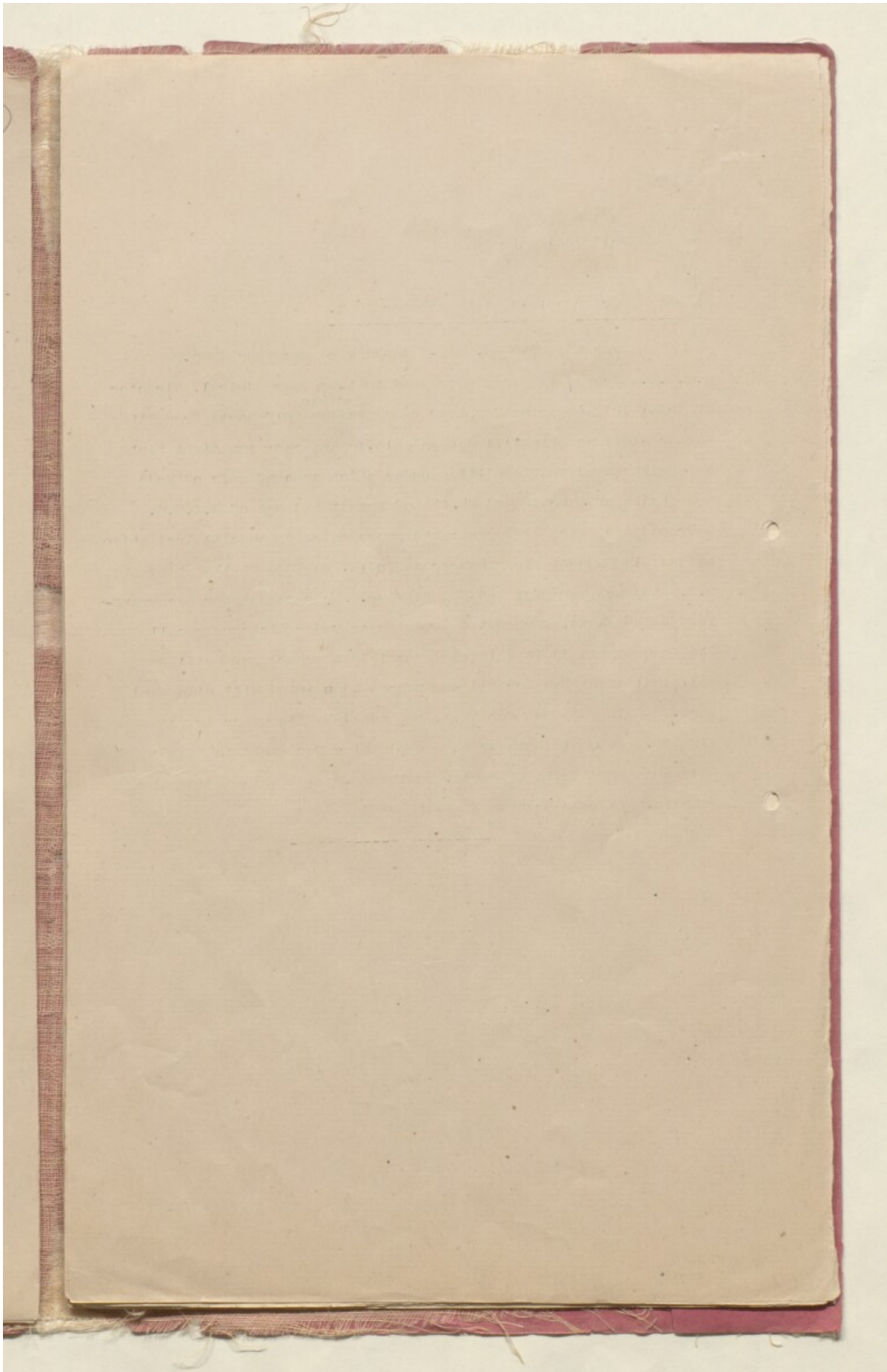
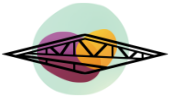


24

Telegram

From Political Bahrain
To Resident Bushire
No. 499-C
Dated 26th December 1920.

Your telegram dated 23rd December 1920. Have received Sh.
of Bahrain letter to your address requesting that I may be allowed
to accompany Hamad. Will forward only for your information but have
informed Sheikh of Bahrain in the sense of your telegram dated 23rd
December. My brother is here but does not speak Arabic. XXXAMXX
XX I would recommend Bashirahmad for duty with Hamad.





25

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 502 -C.

Political Agency, Bahrein.

Dated 27th December, 1920.

To

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
BAHREIN.

MEMORANDUM

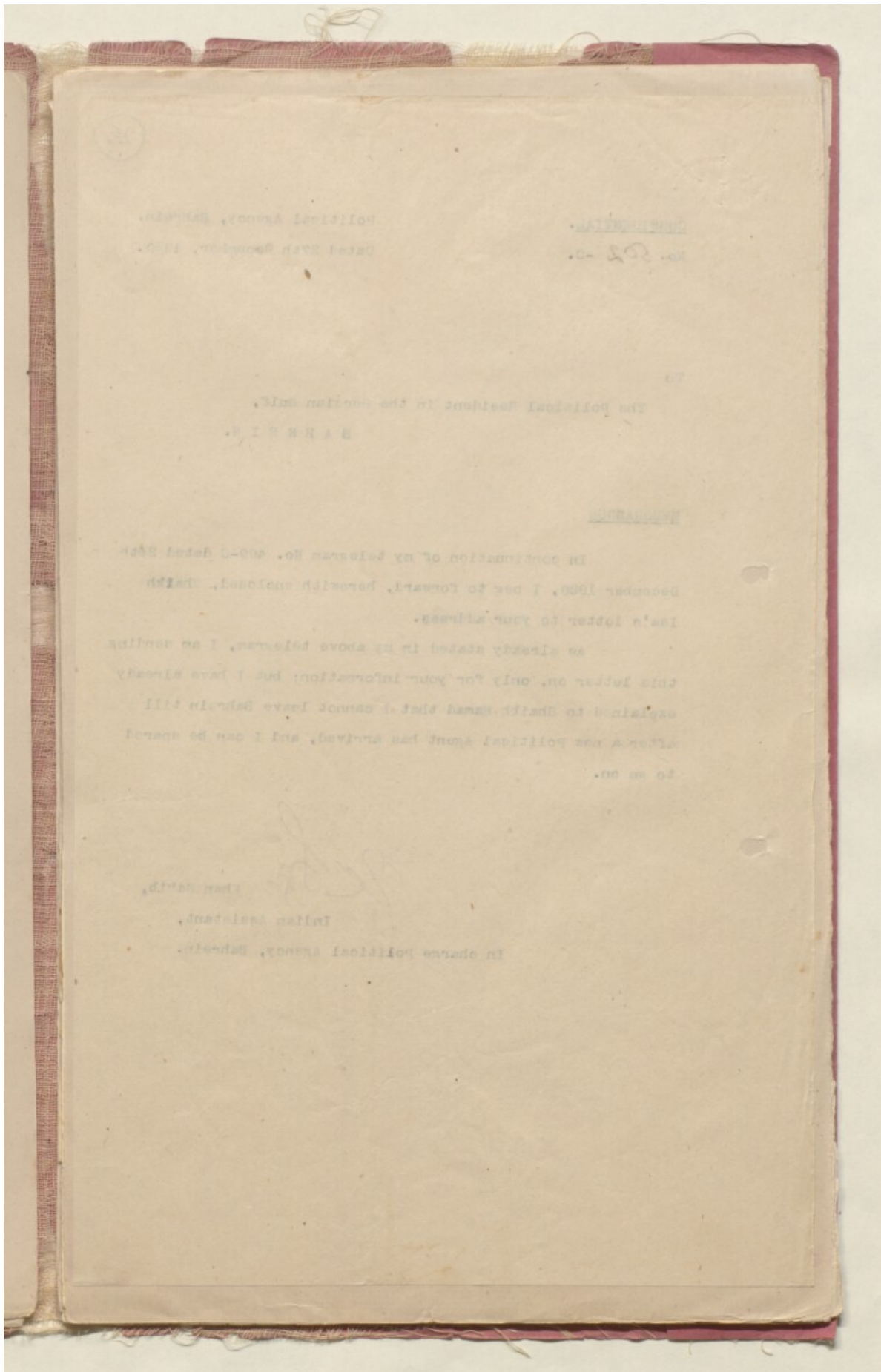
In continuation of my telegram No. 499-C dated 26th December 1920, I beg to forward, herewith enclosed, Shaikh Isa's letter to your address.

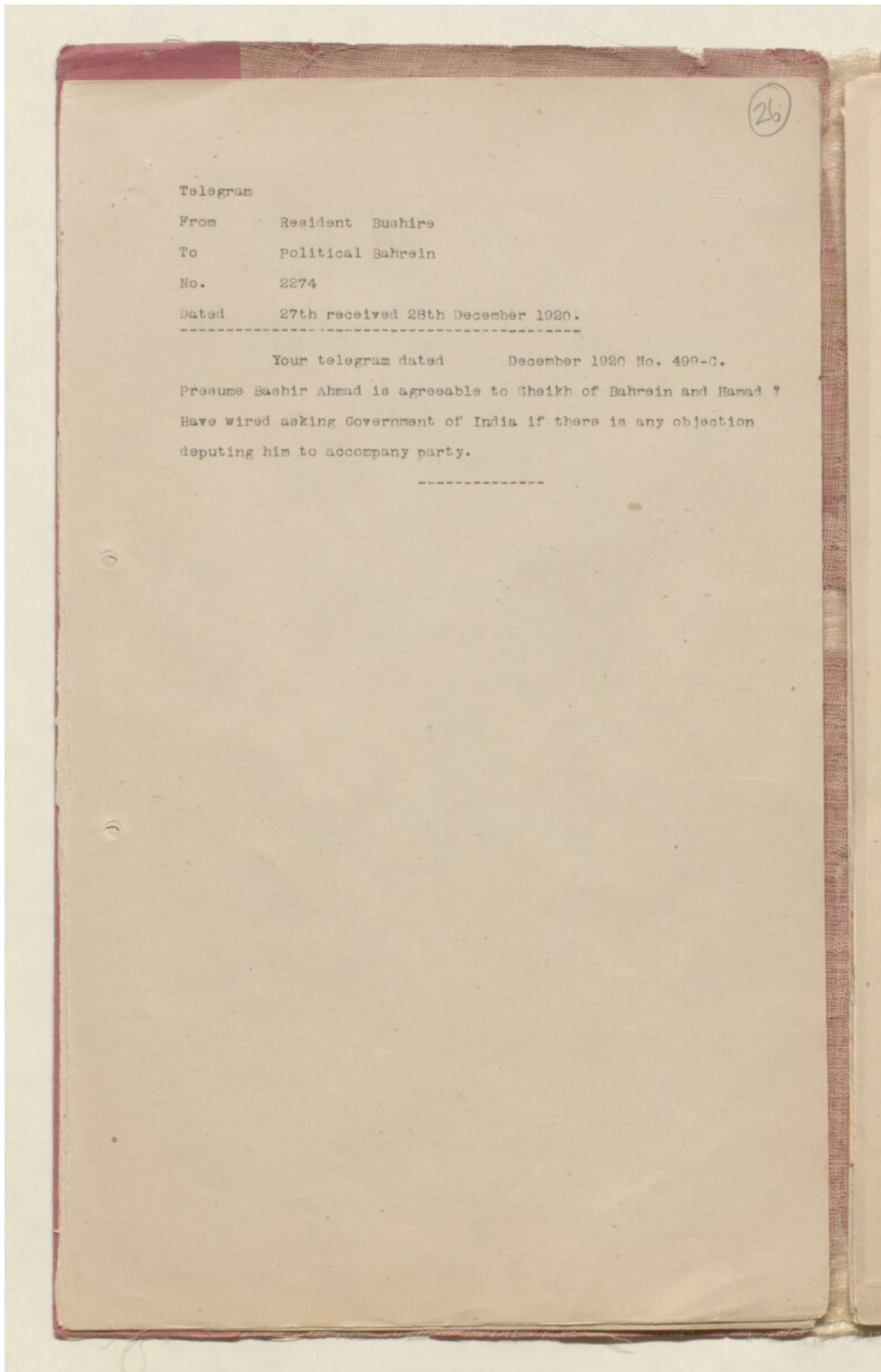
As already stated in my above telegram, I am sending this letter on, only for your information; but I have already explained to Shaikh Hamad that I cannot leave Bahrein till after a new Political Agent has arrived, and I can be spared to go on.

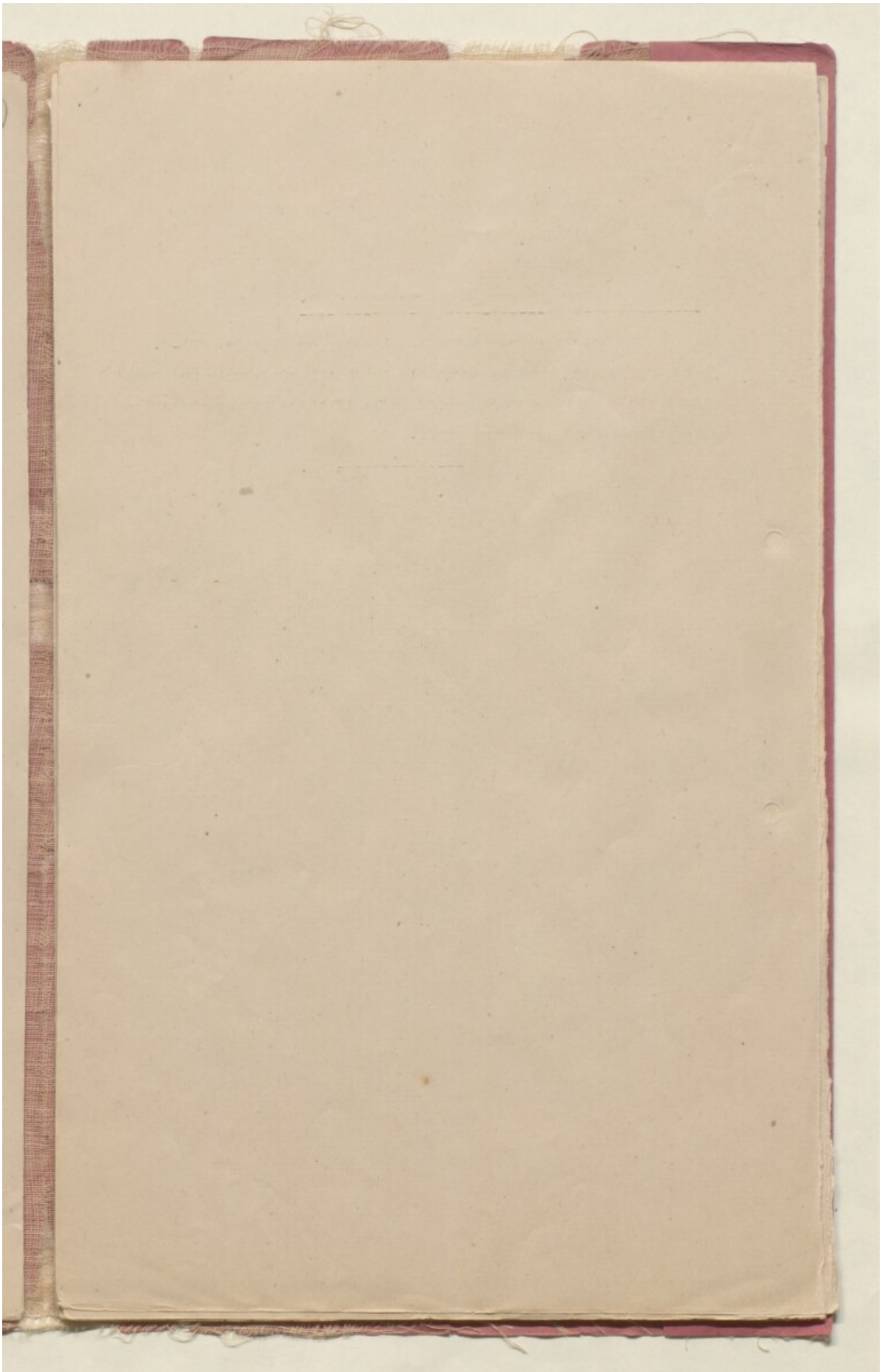
Khan Sahib,

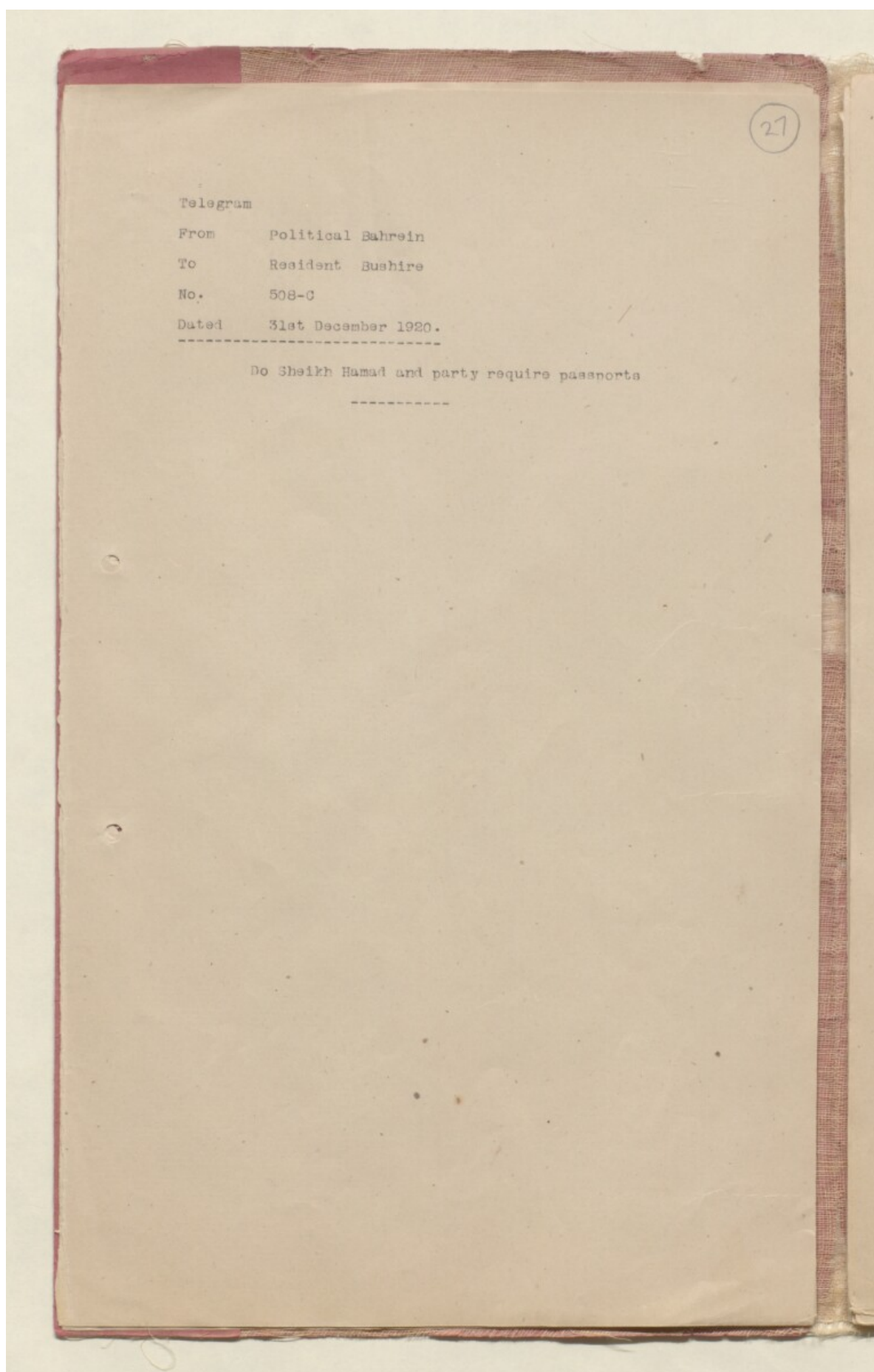
Indian Assistant,

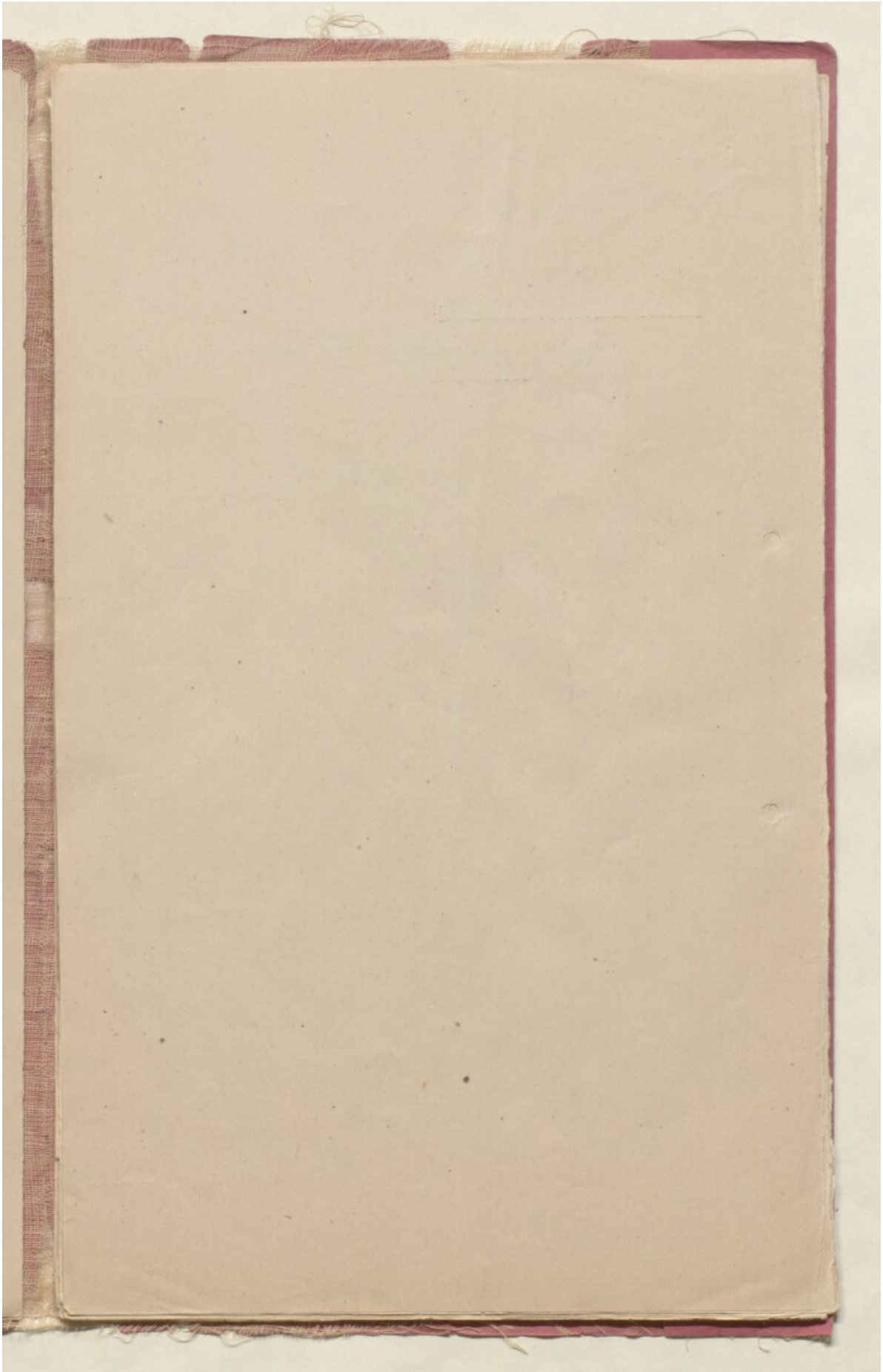
In charge Political Agency, Bahrein.

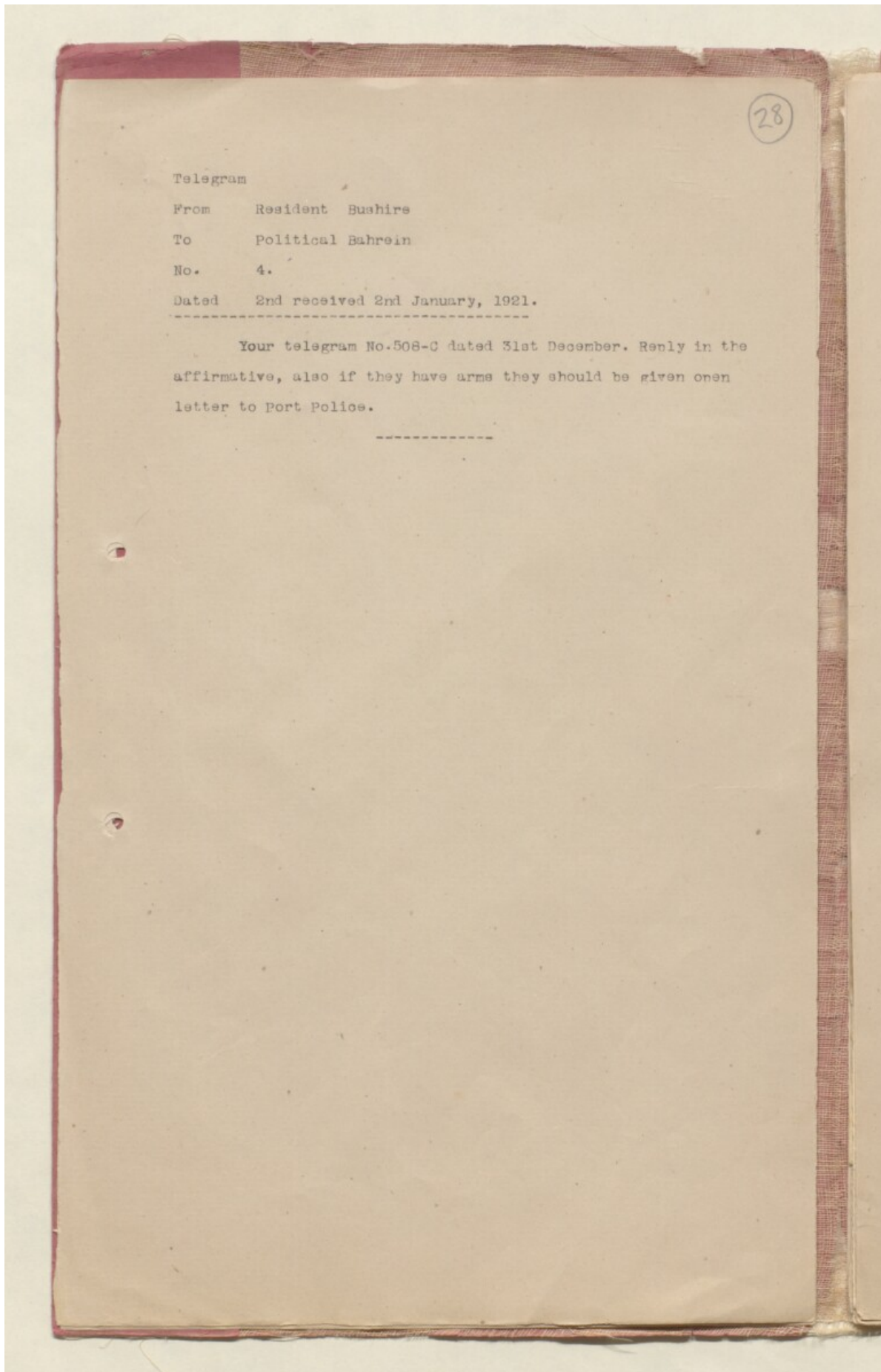


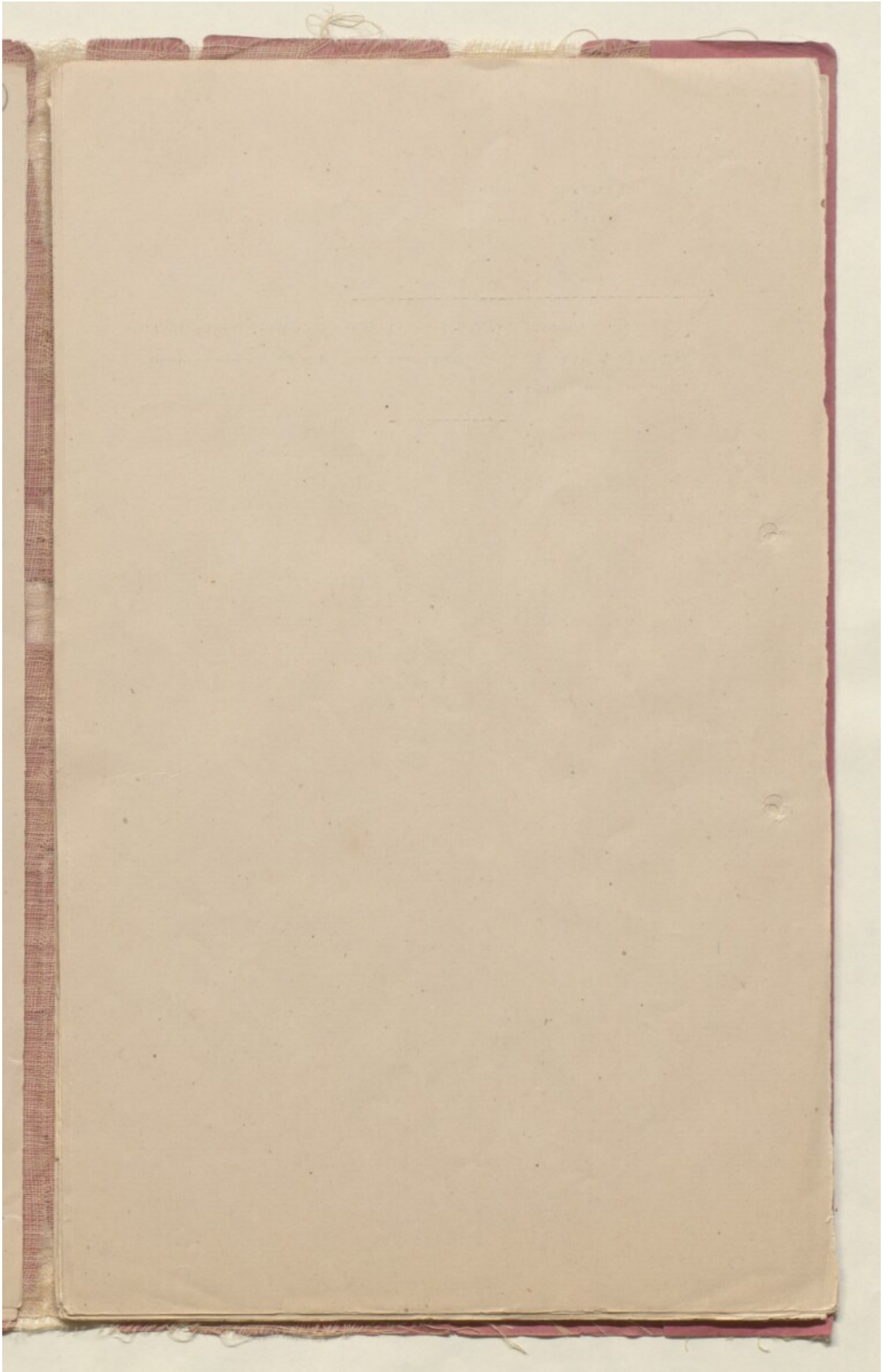














(29)

Telegram

From Resident Bushire

To Political Bahrein

No. 6.

Dated 2nd received 3rd January 1921.

My telegram No. 2274 dated 27th December. Government of India approve Bashir Ahmad accompanies Sheikh Hamad and presume his visit is entirely private and at Sheikh Hamad's own expense. To this last part propose to reply in the affirmative.

